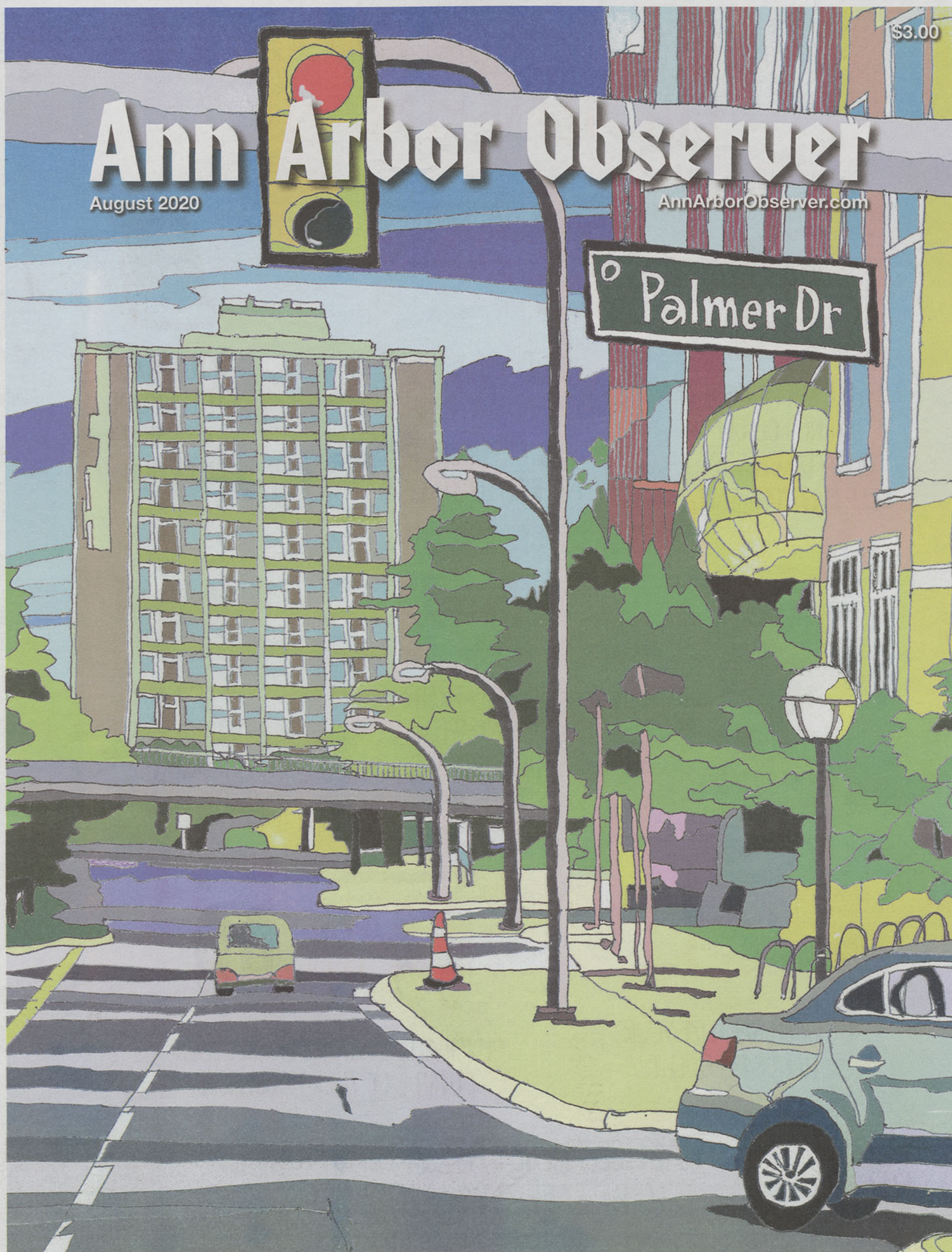


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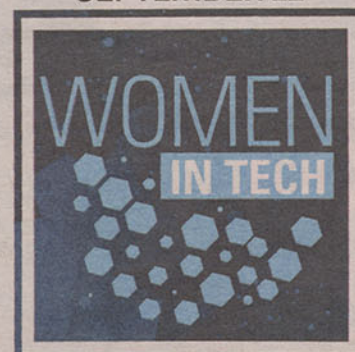
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AUG. 29

SEP. 12

SEP. 26

OCT. 10

OCT. 24

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Wendell Pierce



Joyce DiDonato



Brian Lobel



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Ann Arbor Observer

August 2020

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Cover: Palmer Drive. Painting by the late Nick Salazar.



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what's happening



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Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin
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UpFront

Road fix?: Will voters support tax renewals during an economic collapse? That's the question on the August 4 ballot. The county road and parks commissions are asking residents to renew and restore the half-mill tax for roads and nonmotorized pathways they passed in 2016.

It costs \$50 annually for a home with a taxable value of \$100,000, and initially brought in \$7 million a year. With rising property tax revenue from increased value and new construction, the renewal is projected to generate \$8.9 million annually—if property values hold up through the recession.

The millage passed by more than two-to-one in 2016, and the county board of commissioners voted unanimously to put the renewal on the ballot—even Ann Arbor commissioner Andy LaBarre, who voted against it in 2016. “My fear then was that it would let Lansing off the hook” for its chronic underfunding of the state’s roads, he explains.

“I will not tell you that a road millage is the highest and best use of a millage,” LaBarre says. “But at the same time, I’m pragmatic enough to know folks are gonna support it.” Board chair Jason Morgan also expects people “will support it because it’s just a renewal of the existing funding.”

There’s a dedicated website (bit.ly/washtenawroadsandpathsmillage) that lists every proposed project’s start date and cost—for instance, two miles of Geddes Rd. from Dixboro Rd. to Superior Rd. in Ann Arbor and Superior townships would be pulverized and paved in 2021 at a cost of \$700,000. A link shows the work funded by the 2016 millage. “Voters can see exactly where their money is going,” Morgan says.

If passed, the millage will send \$4 million annually to the county road commission. Another \$1.8 million would go to the parks commission to expand the Border-to-Border Trail and Connecting Communities Grants for local pathways.

The balance, about \$3.1 million, would go to cities, villages, and townships to invest in their own roads and nonmotorized projects. That would be prorated based on the tax revenue each contributes. Ann Arbor, the biggest contributor, would get back \$2.4 million annually.

Big money: Two political veterans could probably ignore their neophyte opponents and still win Ann Arbor’s state house primaries. So why are Felicia Brabec and Yousef Rabhi raising so much money?

In District 55, which covers north Ann Arbor plus Pittsfield, York and

Augusta townships and part of Ann Arbor Township, Stephen Kurant says he’s serious about his run to replace term-limited Rebekah Warren. But he faces Brabec, who has name recognition after eight years on the county board. And because Kurant is self-funding, he expects to spend “less than 1 percent” of what Brabec does—she’s aiming to raise \$138,000.

In south Ann Arbor’s District 53, first-time candidate Sam Larson is challenging Rabhi, a two-term incumbent and House Democratic floor leader. Larson hopes to raise \$10,000—but Rabhi expects to bring in more than twice that.

Rabhi and Brabec don’t plan to spend all that money on themselves. “A significant amount of the money that I’ve raised, I’ve contributed back to the House Democratic caucus to help us flip seats,” Rabhi says—more than \$60,000 since 2018. Brabec says she, too, plans to write the Democratic caucus “a pretty big check.”

“It’s hard to get progressive legislation moved through when you don’t have the gavel,” Rabhi explains. He cites as an example his current bills to protect workers under mandatory quarantine during the Covid-19 pandemic from being fired or having their pay or benefits reduced.

It didn’t get any traction with the Republican majority. “It’s like the pandemic never happened,” says Rabhi. “Once we have a Democratic majority, we will get hearings on the bills.”

Tenants organize: Seventeen years after it disappeared, the Ann Arbor Tenants Union is back. “We started actively organizing during the pandemic,” emails Ozge Savas, the group’s spokesperson, as Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti renters began holding virtual meetings hoping to strengthen their bargaining power as tenants.

Some tenants in Wilson White properties, including Nob Hill and Wyndham Hill, were angered by letters they received in April with an ultimatum: sign a new lease at a small increase within two weeks or be prepared to cough up big if they waited. In a letter shared with the Observer, the difference came to \$215 a month.

Working with the AATU, almost forty tenants sent a group email protest-

ing the ultimatum. There was no “official response,” says a Wyndham Hill resident, and the effort at collective resistance petered out—but the resident nonetheless believes that the support from AATU helped individual renters negotiate better deals with management. More recently, members were involved in an anti-eviction effort in Ypsilanti.

The original Tenants Union coordinated a citywide rent strike in 1969 and 1970 and for many years operated an office in the Michigan Union with paid staff to advise students in landlord-tenant disputes. It closed its doors in 2003 after losing funding from the Michigan Student Assembly.

The reborn AATU has only a Facebook page ([a2tenantsunion](https://www.facebook.com/a2tenantsunion)); Savas, who recently earned her doctorate in psychology, emails that they “are currently not seeking funding from the university.”

While it’s unclear if the loose-knit coalition will develop the muscle of its predecessor, Covid-19 has catalyzed years of frustration over high rents. “Raising rent in the middle of one of the worse economic crises we’ve had in a

long time—we’ve heard from tenants that this can’t continue to happen,” says med student and activist Alex Reardon.

Reuben Tour:

This summer, Zingerman’s is taking its sandwiches on the road to seven stops in Michigan plus Toledo. The “Reuben Tour” includes its namesake sandwich and a dozen more, plus chips, soda, baked goods, and some deli items like hunks of Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and sliced corned beef.

According to Zingerman’s event manager Terra Brock, it started with an off-the-cuff remark by Deli managing partner Grace Singleton, who wondered if there was a way the deli could “take Reubens on the road.”

Zingerman’s already had some experience doing that: last year, a two-day pop-up in Chicago attracted more than 1,000 customers. After assessing interest on social media, it found partners willing to host a Zingerman’s visit. In July, the tour hit Kalamazoo, Detroit, Grand Rapids, and Lansing, this month the tour makes another stop in Detroit between visits to Oak Park, Toledo, and Cheboygan.

As with any rock band tour, there was also merch. A limited edition of Reuben Tour T-shirts sold out through Underground Printing (see Marketplace Changes, p. 33).

Would Zingerman’s repeat the event in the future? “If it is a successful tour, we might just do it again next summer,” Brock says. “Stay tuned!”



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"Hearts" artwork from Ms. Fineberg's 1st Grade Class - King Elementary



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We acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our teachers, staff and leaders as they have worked valiantly to connect and serve our students and their families despite the added challenges of learning together while we are physically apart. We are grateful to our parents and community members who have risen in remarkable ways to support students, staff and families throughout this historic time.

We continue to prepare for a safe beginning to the 2020-21 school year, and appreciate the partnership of our community as we work to keep our students, staff, and community healthy and safe.

Thank you for your support of our 18,500 students and of the Ann Arbor Public Schools.

Jeanice

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Superintendent of Schools

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Inside Ann Arbor

Schools Reopening

Superintendent Jeanice Swift says Ann Arbor's plan will "land on the side of caution."

"It's been four months since we closed our schools for health and safety, and as we look four months into the future we have no way of knowing whether as a country we'll be able to get this under control, or if this new normal will persist for a while," Swift says. "But by having a fully developed framework with several settings on the dial, our families, our children, will at least be able to understand where we'll be."

When the district finalizes its plan at the end of July, those dial settings will include three learning models: virtual, in-person, and blended. AAPS has been fine-tuning its plans since Governor Whitmer released her MI Safe Schools Roadmap on June 30, which includes safety protocols for schools based on the status of the coronavirus pandemic.

The state's plan allows for in-person instruction during Phase Four. But just days after its release, Whitmer said that in-person instruction this fall is in jeopardy because coronavirus cases were on the rise again.

Whitmer's plan doesn't require social distancing or masks for K-5 students. But schools have the authority to enact stricter requirements, and Swift says Ann Arbor's "blended" plan "features all the CDC recommended practices, social distancing, and the wearing of PPE."

"We're still working out the details of that because it's a massive puzzle," she says. "We are evaluating every single square foot in the district because it's possible we'll have to use other locations to make this work."

She says that those students who are unable to learn fully virtually, including "our youngest students, our students with special needs, our students with second language needs ... we're looking at that [blended] middle setting as a way to



The district will monitor the infection rate in the community and in every school week by week. And families will always be able to choose a fully virtual learning experience instead.

conceivably provide more face-to-face for those students ..."

If and when students return to classrooms in the blended model, it will be at "a roughly 50 percent occupancy rate," Swift says. For middle and high schools, "that gets our students in at least twice a week."

The district will monitor the infection rate in the community and in every school week by week. And families will always be able to choose a fully virtual learning experience instead.

But virtual learning for 2020-21 will look entirely different from how students finished their 2020 school year. "Our teachers did an extraordinary job in just an extremely tough situation," Swift says about the abrupt closure in March. Going forward, "we're talking about synchronous instruction, we're talking about a learning management system that makes it easy to find what you need. We're talking about a graded setting that's rich in direct feedback ... I would say it looks a lot more like school."

But students won't be on screens six or seven hours a day, she emphasizes. "They may do some independent reading, they may do some maker kinds of activities, they need to get outdoors and get some physical activity."

Swift says parent attitudes fall across the spectrum. Some want their child to be enrolled virtually because they or a family member have a medical condition. Others tell her that "if the doors are open, their children will be there."

Schools, Swift says, are not a no-risk environment. "The very nature of community spread means that none of us is in a perfect bubble. We have great support from Washtenaw County Health Department and our own health officer."

We are putting together teams for contact tracing and health screening. We have all the responsible components in our reopen plan. But that to me is kind of the bumper sticker," she says. "We will be responsible, not reckless ... We will land on the side of caution."

AAPS will offer a fully online opportunity for every grade level in the fall as part of a "virtual classroom—what people would think of as an online school." After the plan is released, parents will have some time to consider and settle into a choice that works for their family—and will be able to change their minds during the school year.

Faced with a projected shortfall of more than \$7 million, Swift says the district will be amending its budget throughout the year. "There are so many things we don't know the answer to, and one of those is the infusion of funds from the federal level."

Swift says the pandemic "laid bare" all the roles schools play in the social fabric of a community. "People think of us serving students when our doors are open, but we're serving students twenty-four-seven," she says. "Over 350,000 meals distributed in the past four months, 15,000 calls to our tech support

center answered, 3,500 devices passed out ... It's been a massive effort to deploy every resource we have in service to children and their families."

"The message we want folks to know is that we will continue to serve our children, and we will meet our children and families where they are ... and we will persevere."

Round One

The August 4 election will narrow the contest for Washtenaw County Trial Court judge.

In deep blue Ann Arbor, the August Democratic primary decides most local offices—even former Republican and independent Jane Lumm is running this year as a Democrat (see p. 25) But elections for judge are different.

Three attorneys are competing for the 22nd Circuit Court seat being vacated by retiring judge David Swartz. The nonpartisan primary will eliminate one; the other two will meet again in the November general election.

All the candidates are hopeful that restorative justice can provide an alternative to prison for some criminals. But they disagree on whether the justice system in Washtenaw County is systemically racist and, if so, what judges should do about it.

Amy Reiser, forty-six, was born in Dearborn, grew up on Grosse Ile, and now lives in Dexter. An assistant Washtenaw County prosecutor, Reiser is endorsed by a Michigan Court of Appeals judge, two local magistrates, a smattering of politicians and businesspeople, and her boss, retiring prosecutor Brian Mackie. "I've worked in Mackie's office since 2002," she explains. "I have, hands down, the most experience handling trials."

Reiser recognizes that "Mackie's gotten a lot of criticism over the last few years. But it's hard for me to hear people criticize [him] because we've done a lot of good work for victims ... I think

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Inside Ann Arbor

in this climate right now, that's being overlooked."

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, **Nick Roumel**, sixty-three, says he's "just young enough to serve two terms if the voters are so willing." A principal at NachtLaw who lives in Ann Arbor, Roumel has endorsements from dozens of past and present elected officials, including both factions on Ann Arbor City Council. Unlike the others, he doesn't have any judges on his list of endorsers, but he does have Michigan attorney general Dana Nessel.

"Back in the early days when Dana was running, somebody told her to talk to me [because] I've got my finger on the pulse of local politics," he says. Early this year they met for lunch, and she volunteered her support. "She was kind enough to join me in my virtual kickoff."

Tracy Van den Bergh, fifty, ran in 2014 but lost to Julia Owdziej. Born and raised in Commack, New York, she lives in Ann Arbor and works as a senior litigator for Nessel.

Van den Bergh didn't get her boss's endorsement, but she did get the backing of more than a dozen judges, including three of the seven current trial court judges: Carol Kuhnke, Tim Connors, and Pat Conlin.

"I've practiced in front of all of them," the former social worker explains, "but I think what really is the focus is that they have designated the seat a family court seat. It's so important that you have a passion for that kind of work, [and] I really am very committed to being with families long-term."

All three candidates agree on the usefulness of restorative justice, which aims to replace punishment with programs to reconcile offenders with their victims and community. "It's just a waste of tremendous resources to be housing somebody in prison," Roumel says. "I'd like to give judges a little more discretion [so] that we can deviate from the [state sentencing] guidelines."

"It is a good idea in certain circumstances," Reiser says. "A situation where

an individual has embezzled from their employer due to a substance abuse issue [might] be a situation where you see the employee get into a substance abuse treatment program, [and] the employer comes together with that employee because they have a long relationship."

But all agree that restorative justice won't work for everyone. "There're a few too-dangerous people out there—serial rapists and serial killers," says Van den Bergh. "But I think it's rare that somebody can't be rehabilitated and reenter society."

The candidates' sharpest disagreement is on whether Washtenaw County's justice system is systemically racist—and, if so, what should be done about it.

"A judge needs to be aware of his or her own inherent biases in setting bail and doing sentencing," says Roumel. "The first thing that I would do to try to eliminate it [is] apply for a grant or have volunteers do court watching to report outcomes—is it a systemic bias or [are we] limping along with our inherent biases and we need to be educated about doing better?"

"Of course it is [systemically racist]," says Van den Bergh. "And it's not because I think Judge [Carol] Kuhnke is a racist or I'm a racist. But the bottom line is we all have implicit biases. I'm always going to be aware that I have implicit biases that I need to stay on top of."

"I don't believe that the system is systemically racist," counters Reiser. "As a prosecutor I treat everyone that comes before me the same. The [law enforcement] officers that I've worked with are compassionate. I see Sheriff [Jerry] Clayton reaching out to the lower socioeconomic communities."

Like the contest to replace Mackie ("A Pivotal Race for Prosecuting Attorney," July), the outcome may depend on whose views on this issue are closest to the voters.

Though judges serve six-year terms, November's winner will likely be reelected until they turn seventy and are forbidden to run again. The judicial ballot doesn't include party affiliations, but it does identify incumbents—and voters return them to the bench by overwhelming margins.



DOMINICK SOKOLOFF

The Silent Ride for Black Lives was organized to educate participants on the different experiences black people have on their bikes.

Black Lives on Bikes

It was the largest and most diverse bike ride Ann Arbor has ever seen.

In June, more than 700 bicyclists participated in a “Silent Bike Ride for Black Lives” to honor lives lost to police brutality and to protest racism. The ride took place less than two weeks after George Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis police officer and Sha’Teina Grady El was punched by a sheriff’s deputy responding to a shooting in Ypsilanti Township.

Ann Arbor’s cycling community is largely white. The ride’s organizers—Survivors Speak, Bicycle Alliance of Washtenaw, the monthly slow ride “bike-in,” Ypsi Bike Co-op, and the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice—wanted to educate participants on the different experiences black people have on their bikes. “The joy of cycling is not equally distributed and it needs to be,” says Bicycle Alliance cofounder Nate Phipps, “but that’s subject to a lot of different things including the way people with color interact with police and law enforcement. I think that’s a major reason that [cycling] is not a purely joyful experience for people of color.”

His friend warned Adams to lay down his bicycle and stand with his hands in the air when the deputies arrived.

Steve Adams, who has been riding in Ann Arbor for decades, says people on the road interact with him differently because he is black—people have thrown beer cans at him, yelled racial slurs as they pass by, and tailed him. In the 1970s, riding with a black friend near Zeeb Rd., he was threatened by a group of young men in a truck. The men cut them off and approached the two cyclists wielding baseball bats and yelling racist obscenities. The situation escalated to the point where his friend—a police officer—eventually had to draw his gun.

The men left, but had the nerve to call the county sheriff to complain that they had been threatened. At the time the sheriff’s department had a reputation for racism, Adams says—and his friend knew how deputies would respond to a call about a black man with a gun. He warned Adams to lay down his bicycle and stand with his hands in the air when they arrived.

His friend placed his gun on the ground and kept his hands in the air, too, holding out his badge for the deputies to examine. Once they confirmed that he was an officer and heard what really happened, they took away the young men in handcuffs. Adams doesn’t know if they were ever prosecuted.

He’s had many negative experiences with cops. Once, he was stopped after running a stop sign when there were no cars around, a common practice among cyclists called the Idaho Stop. “If I had



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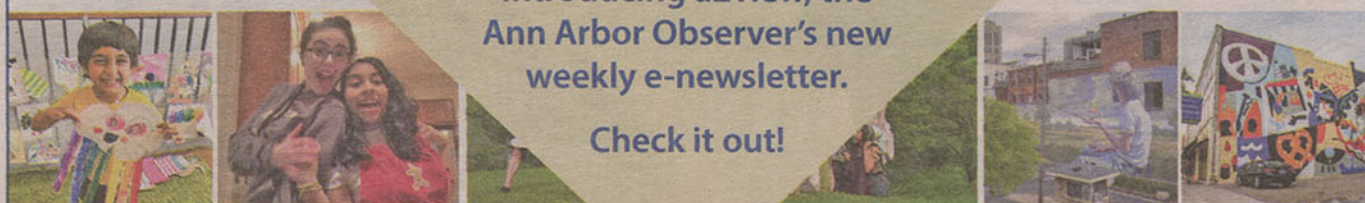
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Inside Ann Arbor

been white, he would not have stopped me," Adams says. Another time, an officer asked him to prove that he owned the bike he was riding.

Adams has also been dismissed when he has tried to raise awareness about the condition of Ann Arbor's bike lanes. A city council member once told him he didn't think black people were interested in bike infrastructure.

In fact, when it comes to infrastructure, poorer and blacker communities are often the most disadvantaged. "A lot of the folks who are really impacted by the infrastructure problems also tend to have less of a voice," says ride organizer Jade Marks. "The Silent Bike Ride for Black Lives was a multilayered opportunity to reflect on whose voices are being heard, whose voices

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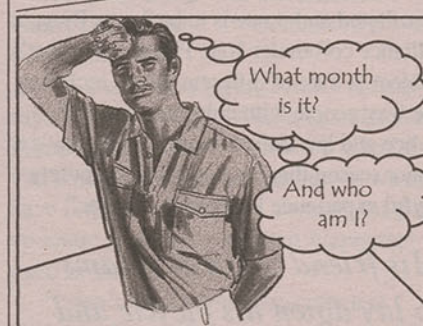


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Life in Ann Arbor

Tim Athan



**Without the Summer Festival,
Art Fair, and Sonic Lunch,
Mitch is unmoored.**

question corner

Q. What is former U-M president Jim Duderstadt doing now?

A. James Duderstadt served as president from 1988 to 1996, living with his wife Anne in the president's house on South University. He started out as an engineering professor, and at age seventy-seven, he is a professor again. For his U-M profile he recently wrote:

"Although I occasionally teach a special topics course in the [Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences] department and they still use one of my textbooks, I'm afraid that my activities these days are more at the policy level. (Actually, I direct the University's program in science, technology and public policy.) However, since my office is right next door, I do keep an eye on the program to make certain it continues to thrive, and I'm always available to meet with and help out students."

The main library on North Campus is named the James and Anne Duderstadt Center (its nickname is "The Dude").

*Got a question? Email question@
aaobserver.com.*

are being left out, and what we as individuals can do to change that dynamic."

For Survivors Speak founder Trische Duckworth, the silence of the June demonstration "spoke louder than any words could. With the roll of each tire, it became a reminder that we need to put an end to white silence."

"Silence can be powerful," says Bicycle Alliance board member Katie Hono-way, "and this was just as much a funeral procession as it was a protest."

The Silent Bike Ride for Black Lives marked an important milestone, but organizers say it was just the start of a long-overdue conversation about the injustices black people face both on and off their bikes. "I think that the cycling community in Ann Arbor and the smaller advocacy group that the Bicycle Alliance of Washtenaw seeks to embrace has a lot of thinking to do but also a lot of acting to do," says Phipps. "If we don't come out of this different, then we've failed."

The ride raised \$7,280 for the NAACP and Survivors Speak.

calls & letters

Sticker shock

We heard from more than a dozen readers about the advertising sticker on the cover of the June issue. None was enthusiastic.

Though it peeled off easily, some felt the ad for prosecutor candidate Arianne Slay spoiled Laura Strowe's artwork. Others thought that it was unfair to sell Slay a unique ad that other contenders couldn't match.

We can't afford to give up these ads entirely. But in the interest of fairness, we will no longer offer stickers to political candidates.

Oates was in Miami Beach

"I was the Chief in Miami Beach, NOT Miami," emailed former AAPD chief Dan Oates, correcting an error in our July interview. "Lots of folks confuse the two. Miami is the big city. Miami Beach is the city that is the set of barrier islands where all the wealth is and the partying goes on. 'South Beach,' as they say."

TeaHaus is open!

Our feature on the pandemic's impact on local restaurants ("Hard Times," July) mistakenly said that TeaHaus had closed its Tea Room. Seating is closed, but only temporarily—it will reopen as soon as they can do so at full capacity. Meanwhile, their "curbside cafe" is doing a bustling business in drinks, sweets, and their amazing selection of bulk teas. Their free lunch and dinner program also continues to feed people in need—see their ad on p. 29.



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Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

Look Down to Look Up

Watch for the Eastern tiger swallowtail's shadow.

In 1585, an Englishman named John White joined Sir Walter Raleigh's voyage to establish a colony on Roanoke Island, Virginia. White was an artist, and before returning to England he painted, or at least started, what the Smithsonian Institution has called "a magnificent watercolor study of a tiger swallowtail butterfly." As best we can tell, it is the first known drawing of a North American butterfly.

"You see a shadow before you see the actual butterfly," says Ronda Spink, coordinator for the Michigan Butterfly Network. "And then you look up and see the butterfly flying. Happens a lot with tiger swallowtails."

Who would have thought about finding a butterfly by noticing its shadow? But the Eastern tiger swallowtail is a big butterfly, standing out for its size, bright yellow color, and dark tiger striping (the female adds some blue to the rear part of its hind wings). And they sometimes glide slowly enough so that the observer can follow their flight without difficulty.

The female will deposit her eggs on many different plants—in Michigan, wild black cherry, tulip tree, and wafer ash are major hosts. Come fall, the caterpillar encapsulates itself in a chrysalis, hibernates, and emerges as a butterfly in spring or summer. Its flight period runs from May to the beginning of October, with one brood at the beginning of the flight period and the other toward the end. We usually see tigers all summer long.

Tigers aren't fussy about nectar sources. They can be found on many butterfly-friendly flowers such as coneflower, zinnia, butterfly weed, butterfly bush, joe-pye weed, and verbena. Butterflies are most active during the hot part of the day, so the best time to look for flying tigers is starting in late morning on a sunny day.

City Natural Area Preservation stewardship specialist Becky Gajewski suggests looking for tigers at Marshall, Barton, and Furstenberg nature areas, Gallup and Bandermer parks, Matthaei Botanical Gardens (although the display gardens are closed as of press time), and Nichols Arboretum.

Kathy Squiers, a horticulturist with Washtenaw County, confirms our own observation that County Farm Park is another good place to look for tigers. On the Metroparks circuit, natural resources tech-



nician Ron Gamble lists Hudson Mills, Dexter-Huron, Delhi, and Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks as locations to look as you walk the trails or along forest edges.

The tiger is a common beauty—we see them in our own backyard every year. This butterfly is a generalist, happy in a variety of habitats ranging from woodlands to fields to gardens to forest edges.

Like so much of the natural world, when it comes to romance, it's the boys who chase the girls. When they meet up, males release pheromones to encourage females to mate. Eventually there are more tigers, providing more beauty for painters to paint, photographers to photograph, and seekers to see.

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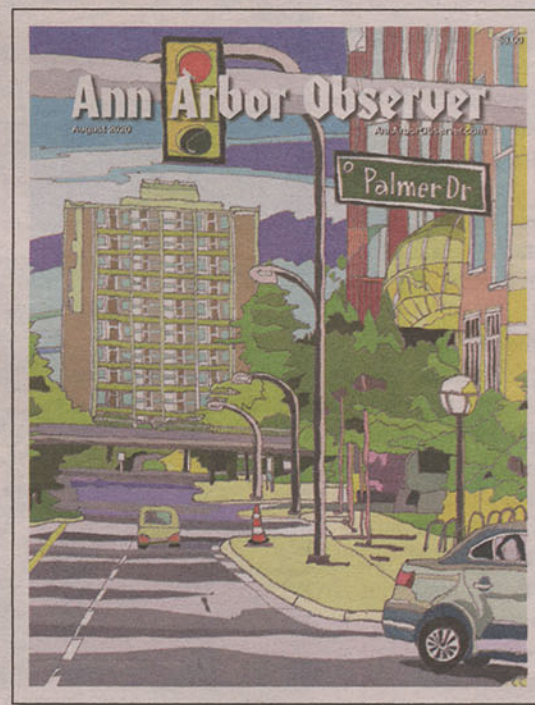
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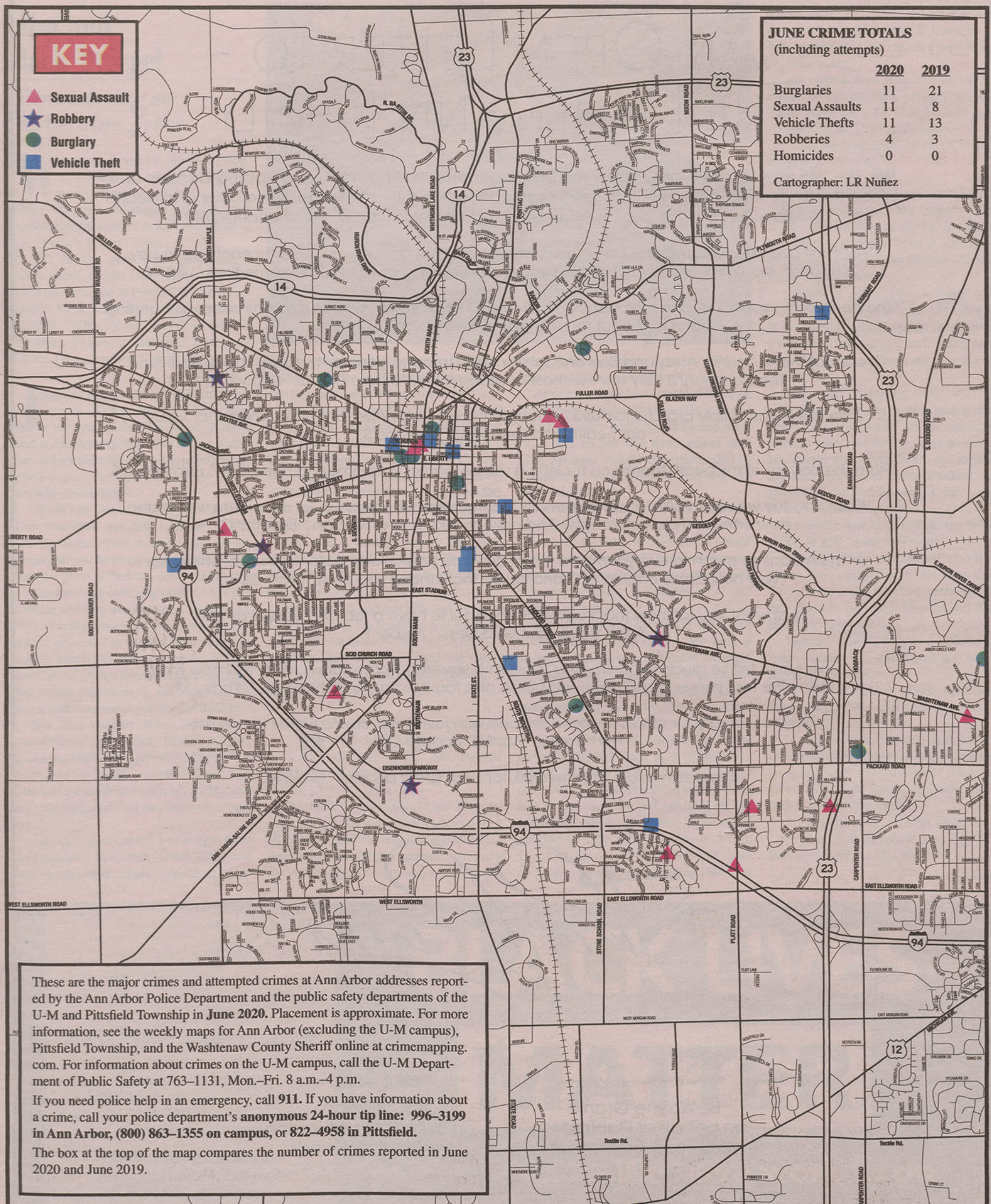
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"We are so incredibly grateful to have a thoughtful and supportive family of owners that value our health and well-being." Avence S.

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"This means so much to everyone here in Florida. One particularly- Jason- was overwhelmed (very noticeably choked up) and asked that I thank you personally." Bill W.

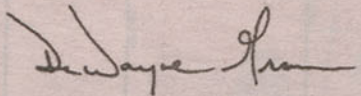
"I just want you to know that I am really thankful to have a job and bosses as I do. A big thank you! God Bless." Amber F.

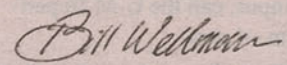
"I have never felt so much joy in working for such a wonderful company. I really feel now more than ever that I have found a second home and family with the Dahlmanns." Abdiel M.

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Thank you


DeWayne Grann
on behalf of Dahlmann
Michigan Employees


Bill Wellman
on behalf of Dahlmann
Florida Employees

Jim and Jack Briegel

Remembering an earlier Ann Arbor

When Jack Briegel was a young boy, he'd watch for his father walking home from work. They lived on Rose Ave., near Michigan Stadium, and Ernest Briegel worked at the U-M laundry, near today's Power Center.

"He always wore white pants and a white shirt," recalls Jack, eighty-four. After work he'd stop at Frey's Café on Washington for a beer, then walk back down State St. "When I'd see this guy all dressed in white, I knew it was him," Jack says. "Then I'd go down and meet him."

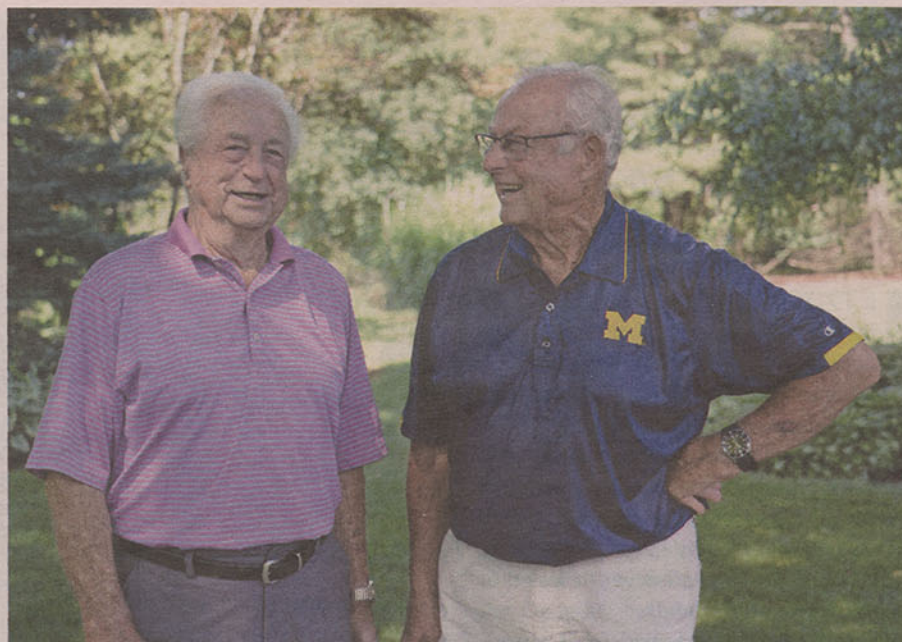
Jack was the fourth of Ernest and Louise's six children. His big brother, Jim, is ten years older. The house on Rose was a converted garage with no hot water, but as Jack describes it, it was a wonderful place to grow up, especially for two brothers who loved sports.

"Golf was first with him," Jack says of Jim. "Baseball was first with me ... We left the house in the morning, and we always had our baseball gloves with us" to join the game at the park down the street.

Jim had been caddying at the U-M Golf Course since he was thirteen. "That was a way to make a buck back in those days as a kid," he says. The caddies "had what you call a 'pitch and putt' course built from one side of [Allen Creek] to the other, and we would play there in the shade of the trees, and sometimes gamble for nickels."

But Jim doesn't share Jack's fond memories of their father. During the Depression, Ernest Briegel was often out of work and the family was on welfare. And "he was an alcoholic," Jim says. "My sister tells stories [about] how he used to beat me."

Jim moved out of the house right after he graduated from Ann Arbor High, and married his high school sweetheart, Ger-



aldine, just before his nineteenth birthday. It was only after he started his own family that he saw a softer side of his father.

"My firstborn son became very ill, and the hospital wouldn't take him unless I made a \$60 deposit," Jim recalls. "I didn't have 60 dollars. I walked from the University Hospital to my parents' house, then on Summit St., and told my dad I needed \$60. He gave me the \$60, and I got my son in."

"He was a working man," Jim says. "He did the best he could to take care of our family. I don't say I ever loved my dad, but I have a lot of respect for him."

Jack says the younger kids had it easier. Their mom was the foundation of the family. And he looked up to his big brother.

"Jim's always been my hero," he says.

"Well, he's always tooted my horn, I know that," says Jim.

"We grew up with a very strong work ethic," says Jack. "We shoveled snow. We mowed lawns. We did anything we could" to earn money.

On football Saturdays, "we used to park cars in our yard. Our dad wouldn't let us leave until the last spot was filled ... then we'd head for the stadium." He says the "ticket takers were always good about

letting kids in, unless it was a sold-out game, and then you climbed the fence."

At an early age, Jack started picking up ticket stubs dropped by fans. He now has them from every home football game since 1927, and all but five away games (see "The Missing Ticket," September 2011). "I also have seventy-one tickets that are older than 1927."

Jim won his first golf trophy at the Ann Arbor junior championship in 1944. Fifty years later he won the Ann Arbor senior men's championship. In between, he won the men's championship four times. Jack calls him "arguably the best golfer to come out of Ann Arbor."

But they played sports for love, not livelihood. After high school, Jim worked at book manufacturer Edwards Brothers for eight years. "Then I went to Braun-Brumfield, which is now Sheridan Books, and I worked there for the next forty years."

"When I was in high school, I worked at Naylor Motor Sales as a janitor after school, cleaning the showroom," Jack recalls. When Braun-Brumfield needed extra hands, Jim came by and pounded on the dealership's door. "He asked, 'How would you like to make a dollar an hour?'" Jack says. "At that point I was making 68 cents an hour ... I ended up switching jobs." He

stayed until 1975, when he and four partners started McNaughton & Gunn in Saline; he retired in 2001 as vice president of manufacturing.

Jim retired from Sheridan in 1992, a month before his sixty-seventh birthday. Three years later, he went back to work part-time at the U-M golf course.

"I like teaching golf," he says. "I like to see people improve."

Along with all the fun, and brotherly love, came loss and tragedy, especially for Jim. In the last decade he lost Gerry and two of their five children, David and Wendy. Both died of glioblastoma, a brain cancer.

"Dutch is still going strong," Jim says. "He's a retired carpenter. Kathie is the only daughter who never married. I live with her today. Laurie's the baby. She worries more about me than Kathie does."

Jack and Jeannette, his wife of sixty-three years, have two grown children, Judy, who works for the university in child care, and Jeffrey, who works for McNaughton & Gunn. Jack's still expanding his collection of football tickets, and wonders what will become of this year's already-truncated season.

At ninety-four, Jim still shoots below eighty in golf "quite frequently."

"His golf swing is beautiful," says Billy Green, who's played with him often since Gerry died. "And when he puts his ball into the hole, he bends down to pick it up like a fifty-year-old."

The two men recently had a "heart-to-heart," Green says, over a post-golf dinner and bottle of wine.

"We were talking about mortality," Green says. "We both had tears in our eyes."

"I told Jim that everyone says that I'm setting myself up for a fall, for heartbreak, because you're ninety-four, and you're not going to be here for much longer," says Green, who's sixty-two.

"I'll outlive you," was his reply.

"Fun is my thing today," says Jim. "I'm looking forward to tomorrow."

—Jan Schlain



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Ode to The Treasure Mart

*Thanks for a life of
shopping and sharing.*

In 1973, I was a senior at U-M, heading off to grad school at UCLA. My dorm room at Baits Housing, high on a hill overlooking North Campus, was filled with mementos and metaphysical charms: tissue paper flowers, stuffed animals, a hanging wall tapestry, crystal wind chimes, rocks, socks, and posters of Paul Newman. College may have offered a rite of passage, but I wasn't eager to let go of any of my favorite friends.

Yet, the future beckoned, as it always does. The time had come to pack it all up and start a new adventure.

Enter: The Treasure Mart.

Ann Arbor's finest consignment resale shop welcomed me and my "treasures" with open arms. I paid the \$3 annual membership fee and opened my first account. I would get 65 percent of anything that sold. Every thirty days, prices on my items would drop by 10 percent. If they didn't sell after six months, they'd be donated to charity.

Owner Demaris Cash sat way back in the corner of the office and looked over everything brought in for consignment. With eagle eyes and a sensibility for sales, this white-haired little lady accepted 99 percent of what people brought in, knowing that one person's trash is another's treasure.

Founded by Cash and her friend Grace Bigby in 1960, The Treasure Mart sold collectibles, decorations, dining room sets, Franciscan Desert Rose china and blue Delft pottery, jewelry, paintings, song books, dog houses, rakes, pans for Bundt cakes; anything that anyone ever bought, inherited, received as a gift, or made with their own hands. Just walking through the aisles was like going back in time: antique RCA radios, player piano rolls, Norman Rockwell prints, grandfather clocks, fossil rocks, historic *Saturday Evening Post* and *Life* magazines.

Elaine Johns, Cash's daughter, sat by her mother's side and learned the business from the ground up. Both ladies were always ready to tell customers about the history of their crafts or credenzas. In the early years they used encyclopedias to pinpoint the era and value of Chippendale chairs; later they researched antique shops. In recent years, Johns, who took over after her mother's death in 2001, consulted online sources to find every item's true value along with a supportive staff of diligent researchers and price checkers.

After I took all my dorm room companions to The Treasure Mart, I headed for Hollywood, enjoying four years of celebrities, sunshine and sandy



The Treasure Mart sold anything anyone ever bought, inherited, received as a gift, or made with their own hands. It was my faithful friend, personal art museum, and touch of Tiffany's all rolled into one.



beaches. Then I moved back to Ann Arbor and renewed my membership at the Treasure Mart—my faithful friend, personal art museum, and touch of Tiffany's all rolled into one.

One of my favorite finds was a Waterford crystal chandelier with the highest price tag I'd ever seen there, \$2,000. I'll never forget those 1,000 prisms, flashes of colors, so elegantly hanging from the ceiling and about to grace someone's foyer or dining room with magnificence. How I wished I could buy it, but where would I put it? My first house, a 1,000-square-foot ranch, had neither a foyer nor dining room.

I lived in that house eighteen years, then unloaded most of those memories back to The Treasure Mart as I started over in my second home. And, once again, began to fill it with a wide assortment of wonderful finds. A "new" couch, pair of chairs, wall sconces, and a painting signed by Renoir (I still wonder if it *could* be authentic), plus many more historic and decorative treasures.

I have only two regrets, items I took to the shop and wish I had back. One, a fourteen-karat gold serpentine necklace, was worth more than the \$75 (less 35 percent) that I earned when it sold (quickly). Gold was selling for more than \$1,500 an ounce when I parted with that necklace. Plus, I would've enjoyed wearing it.

The other was a fireplace grate that held four cardboard logs, with an orange lightbulb and an aluminum wheel that spun round and round to simulate flames. This treasure was purchased in the 1950s by my dad who wanted to give his family some fun with the look and feel of a fireplace in our modest Detroit home. When I was convalescing on the couch after I had my tonsils out, its "roaring" fire and beautiful rustic logs helped me heal and recover.

Now, almost half a century after my first visit to Treasure Mart, I'm downsizing to move back to a smaller house. Last year, I began to gather up most of my current crop of treasures and take them back to resell. Throughout my life, The Treasure Mart's familiarity and friendship was always there for me, making every move and life transition easier.

When Johns announced last January that she was selling The Treasure Mart due to health issues, I was devastated along with the rest of the town. We didn't want to lose Elaine and her

sacred shop. Everyone hoped that someone would come to the rescue and keep it going. We're still hoping.

Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit, and the store had to close its doors. In June a letter was emailed to every member to come get their items or they would be reduced by 50 percent in two weeks. Whatever remained would be donated to charity.

Recently, I went to pay my final respects. Once again, I was about to start another chapter of my life, but this time without my dear Treasure Mart. I would have to find new treasures on my own. Or perhaps the universe was nudging me to travel lighter from now on.

Walking down the aisles one last time, I still marveled at a sparkly necklace in the jewelry case and two gorgeous 1940s mahogany nightstands. But the store felt ghostly. No more overflowing counters, crowded with furniture, dishes, colored bottles, and clown figurines. This building from the 1860s was about to sashay into another era; but as what? For whom? And, why?

I lingered, trying to find one last treasure I could take home and savor, as the final chapter of the best novel I had the good fortune to be a character in wound down. Time to close the book once and for all. Will there be a sequel? There has to be.

The Treasure Mart was a shining star, a cherished friend of everyone who passed through. She helped me part with treasures too good to toss, providing a place to share them with others, bringing joy for a pittance.

Farewell old girl, it's been a privilege and an honor to have known you for so many years. You shall live in my heart forever. What a treasure you were and will always be.

—Phyll Perry

Then & Now

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Baseball in Bo's Field House

In 1981, a strike-shortened season brought the Cincinnati Reds to Ann Arbor.

When you think about baseball spring training, Ann Arbor is about the last place that comes to mind. The Michigan baseball team is lucky every year if half its early season home games don't get snowed out. But in 1981, there was a second "spring" training in August.

A baseball strike halted the 1981 season over a dispute about free agency. Team owners wanted to require that a team signing a free agent pay compensation to the team whose player it took. The players saw this hurting their value in free agency—still a pretty new institution after the reserve clause that bound a player to a team was struck down in 1975. Nearly 40 percent of the season was wiped out before the two sides finally came to an agreement: after a week of training, the season would restart on August 9.

The Cincinnati Reds, though, had a problem: their home at the time, Riverfront Stadium, was hosting a jazz festival that week. So the team came to Ann Arbor to train.

That was only possible because Bo Schembechler got sick of losing the Rose Bowl. The Wolverines lost in their first five trips to Pasadena under his leadership, and he laid part of the blame on the teams having to spend two weeks training in California due to the winter weather back in Michigan. He thought the players lost their competitive edge after the first week.

So Michigan athletic director Don Canham raised a couple million dollars and built an indoor practice facility. Now known as the Bennie Oosterbaan Field House, it was completed on December 15, 1980. The team used it for a week before going for a shorter trip to California, where they beat Washington 23-6 to finally give Bo his first win in the Rose Bowl.

It was the field house—on top of Ray Fisher Stadium next door—that Reds president Dick Wagner cited as the reason the Reds chose to come to Ann Arbor. The

Reds played on artificial turf at the time, and Bo's practice facility let them replicate that. (Wagner is best known for his perplexing decision in 1978 to fire Sparky Anderson, to the benefit of the Detroit Tigers.)

It rained the first morning the Reds were in town, so they immediately made use of the field house. The players were excited to be in the football facility,

and the *Michigan Daily* reported that third baseman Ray Knight asked manager John McNamara if they could play touch football. When McNamara said no, Knight asked if they could play tackle instead.

The next day the Reds trained outside at Ray Fisher Stadium—and got to meet Ray Fisher. Before coaching the Michigan baseball team from 1921 to 1958, Fisher had pitched for the Reds on their 1919 World Series-winning team.

McNamara visited with Fisher in the

The Reds' manager visited with Ray Fisher in the stands and asked him how old he was. Fisher responded, "Well, I'm old. I was pitching when your players' fathers were born."

stands and asked him how old he was. Fisher responded, "Well, I'm old. I was pitching when your players' fathers were born." Fisher passed away the following year at ninety-five.

The Reds brought several future Hall of Famers to Ann Arbor. Pitching coach Bill Fischer told the press he was only worried about one of his charges: the thirty-six-year-old Tom Seaver. Seaver was 7-1 on the season, but Fischer worried the two months off would take a toll on his aging pitcher. He needn't have worried—Seaver again went 7-1 after the restart. It was the final All-Star year of his career. The team also still had several players remaining from its "Big Red Machine" heyday in the 70s—Johnny Bench, Dave Concepcion, and George Foster.

The Reds initially weren't sure about letting the public see their workouts in Ann Arbor. But eventually not only did they allow people in, they let local school children climb up and station themselves on top of the left-field fence. Several hun-

dred people attended the unexpected late-summer attraction each day.

After a week, play resumed. The Reds were 35-21 prior to the strike, just a half-game back of the first-place Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West when play had stopped. That strong beginning was essentially wiped off the books, though, when the season restarted. The MLB declared each division would have a winner for the first half of the season and a winner for the second half of the season, resetting everyone's record.

The Reds had a strong second half of the season too, going 31-21 and finishing second in the division, one-and-a-half games behind the Houston Astros. Their overall record for the year was 66-42, the best in the division, four games ahead of the Dodgers and six games ahead of the Astros. But because they didn't win either half of the season, they got left home for the playoffs.

They wouldn't return to the postseason until 1990. By then, they had an infield full of Wolverines.

Whether it had anything to do with the Reds' training in Ann Arbor or not, there ended up being a shuttle of talent between Cincinnati and Ann Arbor during the 1980s. Barry Larkin, a graduate of Cincinnati's Archbishop Moeller High School, led U-M coach Bud Middaugh's teams to the College World Series in 1983 and 1984 and was named Big Ten Player of the Year in 1984 and 1985. The Reds drafted him in the first round that year.

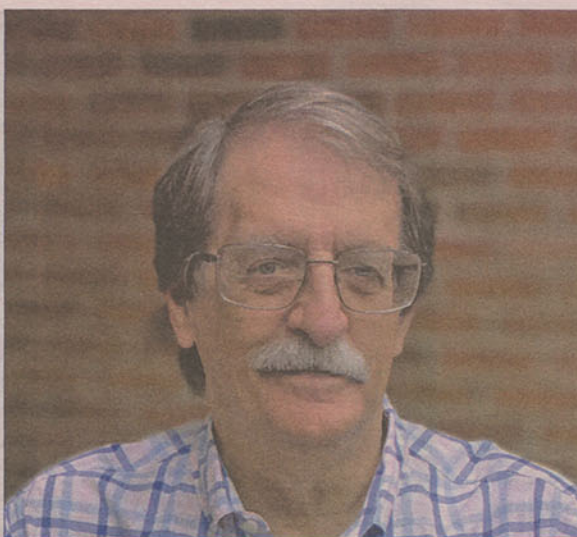
Larkin's eventual Hall of Fame career, spent completely with the Reds, was highlighted by winning the 1990 World Series. The third baseman that year was Chris Sabo, who played for Michigan from 1981 to 1983. And a lot of the time when shortstop Larkin threw to first base to get an out, Hal Morris was on the receiving end. He played for Michigan from 1984 to 1986.

A few times that season, the Reds' infield was rounded out by Bill Doran at second, who played for Middaugh at Ohio's Miami University before he followed Schembechler's path to Ann Arbor. There aren't too many coaches in the history of college baseball who can say a World Series-winning team had a starting infield made completely of their former charges.

For the first time since 1981, this year's MLB season is again truncated. When the union and owners couldn't agree on what the players would earn for a shortened season, the league unilaterally imposed a sixty-game schedule starting July 24.

This year, though, the teams are training at their home ballparks. The circumstances that kicked off the Reds-Michigan connection in 1981 may never be repeated. But in the 1980s, it paid great dividends for both parties.

—Tom Jensen



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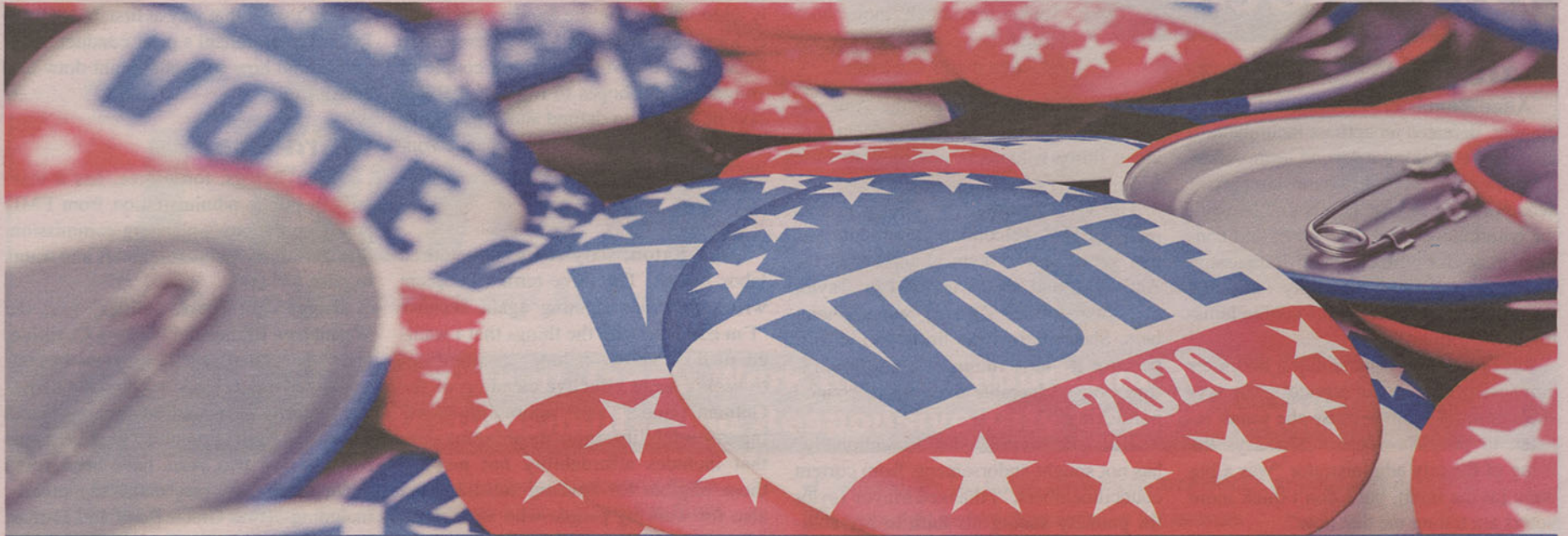
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Democratic Deadlock



Two factions—and three wild cards—face off in the August 4 city council primary.

by James Leonard

The Back-to-Basics Caucus took control of city council in 2018. With campaigns that focused on curbing development and rebuilding roads, they emerged with seven seats. That left the opposing Activist Coalition with three, plus mayor Christopher Taylor.

Those are the Observer's labels, not theirs. Basics members in particular sometimes assert that they're all independents who happen to occasionally agree on issues.

In a post on his eponymous website, Ann Arborite Sam Firke recently argued that cross-endorsements, donations, and voting patterns all suggest something more unified. He calls the factions "Protectors" and "Strivers."

By whatever name, council has long been divided between a pro-growth coalition that controlled the city almost continuously from 2000 until 2018, and the growing slate of critics who, in Firke's words, see themselves as "protect-

ing [Ann Arbor] from forces that would change it."

The Basics Caucus won a second victory in 2018 even before their new members took office: that November, voters amended the city charter to preserve the "Library Lot" as a public park. The Activists had

he's never seen more contention and anger or so little getting done. Basics members, for their part, look at the same history and see spirited council debates leading to better outcomes.

The Basics Caucus has never been able to muster the eighth vote they'd

The deadlock has resulted in debates running as late as 3 a.m., and heightened tension between the two sides. Mayor Taylor says he's never seen so much contention and anger.

wanted a seventeen-story building there.

On council, though, their biggest initiatives have been blocked. Last year, Taylor vetoed an attempt to schedule a public vote on nonpartisan elections. He's twice vetoed budget amendments that would have undone the Activists' pledge to commit a tax rebate to affordable housing, climate action, and pedestrian safety.

The deadlock has resulted in debates running as late as 3 a.m. and heightened tension between the two sides. Taylor, who was first elected to council in 2008, says

need to override the mayor's vetoes. But in January, in a resolution that wasn't subject to veto, they fired city administrator Howard Lazarus. They won't say why, citing a non-disparagement clause in the quarter-million-dollar settlement Lazarus received for being terminated without cause.

An *Ann Arbor News* analysis found that councilmembers received 150 emails reacting to the firing, all but five of them critical. The Basics candidates say they don't expect it to be an issue in the August

4 Democratic primary; the Activists hope it will be.

Because Ann Arbor votes overwhelmingly for Democrats in November, the August 4 Democratic primary will decide the balance of power. Even council's senior member, Republican-turned-independent Jane Lumm, is running as a Democrat this year. Under any label, interlocking endorsements and contributions identify the Ward Two rep as a charter member of the Basics Caucus. Incumbents Anne Bannister and Jack Eaton and returning Ward Five candidate David Silkworth are also firmly aligned with its positions.

Newcomers Tony Brown and Travis Radina don't want to be identified with either side. But Brown is endorsed by three Basics candidates, while five past and present Activists back Radina.

Two Democratic Socialists are running their own small but enthusiastic campaigns. They're long shots but not out of contention: Bernie Sanders beat both Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden locally. And finally, a controversial anti-Israel activist is making it a three-way race in Ward Four.

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Vote on August 4th

Democratic Deadlock

Ward One

Anne Bannister, fifty-six, a financial planner, defeated an activist incumbent in 2018 and is seeking a second term. Asked what she considers her two most important accomplishments, she points to “the work the community and I have done, and continue to do, for climate action and passing the A2Zero Carbon Neutrality Plan, and the vote to proceed with affordable housing at the former Y lot.”

Like other Basics candidates, Bannister emphasizes constituent services—she says she’s running again because she wants “to listen to people’s voices.” She says the firing of the city administrator “was a big issue [at the time], but I don’t think more voters are telling me that now.”

Lisa Disch, fifty-eight, is a U-M political science professor with about a dozen volunteers. She hopes to raise \$20,000, and though she says “we’re not a slate,” she’s donated to the other Activist candidates. She’s endorsed by Mayor Taylor, former mayor John Hieftje, and five past and present council Activists.

“What we’re seeing on council [is] an inability to reach agreement on where we should be going,” Disch says. “Instead of legislating, ‘people are taking their frustrations out on each other.’ And she says that ‘many voters I’ve talked to [were] outright angry’ about the Lazarus firing: ‘It was a failure of transparency.’”

Like the other Activists, Disch sketches a vision of positive change in the city, writing that “I would like to see us develop into a town that once again has neighborhoods with distinctive pockets of commercial, cultural, and entertainment opportunities.”

Ward Two

Jane Lumm, sixty-six, a civic volunteer, is running an intimate campaign with her husband as her manager and ten friends as volunteers. She says she raised about \$28,000 last time, but in a pandemic “I don’t know how much I can expect to raise.”

Lumm served on council as a Republican from 1993 to 1998 and returned as an independent in 2011. She says she’s now running as a Democrat because “two-thirds of the other ward representatives strongly urged me to run again.” Though she’s by now run under three party labels, she says her politics haven’t changed: “I like to think of myself [as] an independent thinker.”

She emails that she’s running again because “I want to continue to build on the progress we’ve made in better aligning city spending with community priorities. Second, I want to ensure that single-family neighborhood zoning is not eliminated or drastically changed. Finally, I want to ensure the 2nd Ward continues to have hands-on, service-oriented representation.”

Lumm cosponsored the motion to fire Lazarus, but doesn’t think she’ll lose many votes over it: “The large majority of 2nd ward voters are much more concerned about the issues directly impacting them,” she writes.

Linh Song, forty-three, the Ann Arbor District Library board president, has about thirty volunteers and aims to raise \$35,000.

Her vision for the city—“to be a more inclusive and welcoming community [in] this generation”—seem aligned with the Activists’, and she’s endorsed by Taylor and two former Activist councilmembers. She criticizes the firing of Lazarus, because it “tells future city administrators how vulnerable they are to council politicking.”

But, she writes, she “intentionally” has not sought endorsements from current councilmembers: “I thanked Mayor Taylor for publicly stating his faith in my abilities. But it is not an endorsement that will dictate or inform my future work ... My goal is to remain independent and represent the values of the ward 2 community while working on behalf of all Ann Arbor residents.”

Ward Three

Tony Brown, fifty-three, is WDET’s digital distribution manager. He declines to say how many volunteers he has or how much money he’s raised because he doesn’t want “to share with my opponents via your article.” Though Basics candidates Bannister, Lumm, and Silkworth endorse him, Brown writes that he has “not accepted their endorsements” because “I need to be able to work with everyone on Council.”

Brown writes that he’s running as a way of “paying back to my community” and describes the factions as an obstacle to effective governance: “They could get so much done if they just had an inch of respect for each other’s ideas.”

As for firing the administrator, he says, “Not a single person at any of the thousands of doors that I’ve visited has brought up Mr. Lazarus.”

Travis Radina, thirty-four, is the U-M’s global alumni communities director. He hopes to raise \$20,000 and has a couple dozen volunteers.

Radina is Taylor’s LGBTQ liaison and is endorsed by the mayor and five past and present Activist councilmembers. But, like Brown, he’s officially unaligned. “Council is intensely combative right now and divided,” Radina explains, and he doesn’t want to ruin his “relatively positive working relationship” with both sides.

“Both rent and homeownership in Ann Arbor are unreasonably expensive,” Radina writes. He says he’d work to expand opportunities to live in the city through “inclusionary zoning practices, accessory housing, tiny homes, and co-op communities—and transit-oriented development.”

Evan Redmond, twenty-nine, works at a marketing analytics firm and says he’s running because “council likes to make big declarations like there’s a housing emergency and then proceed to not really address it.” A Bernie Sanders fan who’s endorsed by the Huron Valley Democratic Socialists, he’s working with a couple of volunteers and hopes to raise \$5,000. He says he’d work to defund and demilitarize the police department and to change zoning to allow denser housing.

Ward Four

Jack Eaton, sixty-seven, is a retired labor lawyer. The three-term incumbent writes that he’s running again because “I’m not done with the things that I wanted to do.” Those include “continu[ing] to seek a more effective clean-up of the Gelman plume,” and “addressing housing affordability in a meaningful way that includes affordability not just for those eligible for housing subsidies but also for working people who struggle to afford our housing prices, taxes and fees, and for those on a fixed income who are challenged by our fees and taxes ... The City needs to avoid raising taxes during a recession when residents are suffering wage reductions and job losses.”

Eaton has “more than a dozen volunteers” and says he’ll probably self-finance a “fair portion” of his campaign.

Jen Eyer, forty-six, a partner in Lansing-based Vanguard Public Affairs, is a former MLive.com journalist who briefly served on the county board of commissioners. She has “dozens” of volunteers, had raised \$25,000 by early May, and says she’ll “raise enough to win.”

“The thing that I would like to change most [on council] is the amount of postponing and delaying issues,” Eyer writes. “We need leaders who will collaborate [and] take action.”

She says that the firing of Lazarus “damaged Ann Arbor’s reputation” and calls the \$277,000 separation agreement “fiscally irresponsible.” A committed Activist, she sums up the split as “the difference between taking us backward or leading Ann Arbor forward.”

Mozhgan Savabieasfahani, sixty, is an environmental toxicologist previously best known locally for staging anti-Israel protests in front of a local synagogue with her husband, Blaine Coleman—at least once carrying a sign with a swastika replacing the “S” in Israel. She supports more effective action on the Gelman plume, but other goals range far beyond the city—including repealing the state “right-to-work” law and the federal Taft-Hartley labor relations act.

She recently posted two caricatures of her Ward 4 rivals on the Ann Arbor Politics website. One shows Jack Eaton and two pigs wearing police uniforms pointing guns at the viewer while the other has Jen

Eyer taking cash from a cigar-smoking pig.

She calls the pigs “a longstanding labor art tradition.” Eyer calls the image “clearly anti-Semitic.” Eaton writes that he didn’t see it that way at first, but “Given Dr. Savabieasfahani’s prior conduct, I can understand how someone might draw that conclusion.”

Ward Five

Erica Briggs, forty-three, has a master’s in public administration from EMU and is on the city’s planning commission. She has “thirty-plus” volunteers and wants to raise \$35,000.

Briggs got into politics via the Washtenaw Biking and Walking Coalition, and is frustrated at how progress in non-motorized transit has slowed under the Basics majority. “The majority of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements over the last two years have been voted down (even free projects),” she emails, including “[t]he Green Road and Earhart Road reconfigurations.”

She’s also disappointed at the rejection of “modest revisions to make it a bit easier to build Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in neighborhoods, and, most recently, a proposal to ask Planning Commission to make a recommendation about necessary code changes to enable more housing along transit corridors.”

David Silkworth, fifty-two and an insurance adjuster, is running his campaign with his spouse, has ten volunteers, and hopes to raise about \$13,000.

He emails that his priorities would include helping residents and business owners “who continue to experience financial losses due to COVID-19.” Even before the pandemic, he writes, they were suffering “the negative effects caused by the sustained concentration of success in our community at a time when local government didn’t have an adequate redistributive mechanism in place to ensure that those successes could be shared by folks who didn’t share in them directly.”

Silkworth says he’d work “to increase our supply of affordable housing while maintaining essential city and human services and affordability for current residents.” But allowing major changes in existing neighborhoods, he writes, would lead only to “increased gentrification and a continued lack of affordability.”

Dan Michniewicz, thirty-three, is the other Democratic Socialist in the race. A Zingerman’s baker laid off by the pandemic, he had raised \$5,000 by early May and is his own manager, with a couple friends as advisers.

He’s calling for creation of a city energy utility, defunding the police, and increasing “the stock of decommodified housing, including cooperatives and Ann Arbor Housing Commission Units.” And he has a unique take on the present political deadlock: it may be a feature of the system, not a bug. A “very dysfunctional city council can be very good for some people in our community,” he writes, “especially if you don’t want anything to change very much.” ■

Re-elect to Council

Jane Lumm

Democratic Primary August 4



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- ✓ Sponsored resolutions to facilitate local business recovery from COVID-19 impacts and to provide taxpayers temporary tax relief
- ✓ Championed efforts to align City spending with community priorities through citizen surveys and City's adoption of "Priority Based Budgeting" approach
- ✓ Authored 40+ City budget amendments to re-allocate spending to your priorities
- ✓ Led the fight for fairer water rates for homeowners
- ✓ Helped neighbors mitigate adverse impacts of major city construction projects (Geddes, Nixon)—advocated for neighbors impacted by UM projects (Inglis House, garage on Green)
- ✓ Initiated creation of City fund for new streetlight installations to improve neighborhood safety
- ✓ Sponsored actions to ensure meaningful resident participation in planning processes
- ✓ Ensured a funding plan was in place before adoption of City's A2Zero plan

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WHAT'S NEXT FOR DOWNTOWN?

What's it like owning a store in downtown Ann Arbor in the summer of Covid-19?

"This is modern-day wartime," says AJ Davidson, president of Bivouac on State Street. "You gotta try new things. If you're not trying to change for the current situation, I don't think you're going to survive."

The clothing and outdoor gear store was requiring customers to wear masks and enforcing social distancing even before Governor Whitmer's latest executive order in July. "I talked to my dad," said Davidson, whose father, Ed, founded Bivouac in 1971. "He said, 'I've never seen anything like this before in my lifetime.'"

"We count on Art Fair. It saves the summer. [Without it,] it's a struggle." And with the return to campus uncertain, "we're cutting lots of fall orders."

With social distancing, Bivouac can have no more than forty-two people in the store at a time. They have "hand-sanitizer stations, and plexiglass at all the registers," says Davidson, and are steam cleaning all the returned items and tried-on clothing. If the fabric can't be steam cleaned,

more people into the store. The saving grace is the closing of the streets."

Elmo Morales, who has been printing and selling T-shirts for forty-three years, isn't feeling saved. He "had great expectations" when the streets closed, he says. But while he thinks it's helped the restaurants, it hasn't helped his hole-in-the-wall shop on Liberty.

He carries a lot of T-shirts that highlight issues like Black Lives Matter. "People call me for that," he says. "I also carry 'I can't breathe,' 'No justice, no peace,' the peace symbol, and MLK ..." But he says, "I don't see people spending money on issues."

His custom printing business is "going fairly well," thanks to loyal customers like the Detroit Street Filling Station, Old Town Tavern, and Ravens Club. "But no schools, no sports teams, no camps ..."

Shopkeepers talk about finding a path through the pandemic.

BY JAN SCHLAIN



"We put our hours on our website and make a new sign [each week]," he says. "If there are more people on the streets at night, we'll stay open a little later. It's basically the more people on the streets, the more people we see. We feed off the restaurants."

"We're just taking each week as it comes. There's no plan."

At Crazy Wisdom in the next block, Bill Zirinsky plans to take things slowly.

"These months have been a time of taking a pause, thinking about what's most important to us in fulfilling our mission of being a bookstore of consciousness," he emails.

"With all of the Covid uncertainty, I have wanted to keep things as simple as I can, and opening later is simpler."

When he wrote, he was looking toward a late-August reopening, with reduced hours, and only on the first floor. "We don't plan to re-open the Tea Room as an establishment serving a full array of foods and beverages," Zirinsky emails. "We've all had a sense of loss about that, especially because we've had such a wonderful live music series there every Friday and Saturday evening for 21 years."

"Simpler is better. We want to make our way through the pandemic, so we will keep re-evaluating. We own our building, without debt, and that will make it smoother to survive, but it's no guarantee."

Mary Cambruzzi reopened her Kerrytown gallery, Found, after the stay-at-home order was lifted in June. While business is picking up, especially on weekends, she says, "it's not anywhere near where it used to be this time of year" but "being next to Sparrow and Monahan's [markets] helps."

So does the Internet. Before the pandemic, Cambruzzi says, her web presence was "an afterthought." But she kept one employee on during the shutdown to work full-time on it, and foundgaller.com now includes many more of her offerings for shipment or pickup. "Now our web sales are up 9,000 percent!"

For in-store customers, she says, "we have nice sanitizer." She asks them to use it before shopping, "instead of fol-

lowing people around with 409 [cleaner]."

Mudpuddles toy store is "open for in-store and curbside" sales, says owner Jan Benzinger. "We offer delivery if it's close by. You do what you can do."

Kerrytown's Spice Merchants also is offering curbside pickup, but a salesperson says no one is taking advantage of it. And Covid safety precautions have taken away some of the pleasure in shopping for spices in person. "No smelling things, no samples. It limits the experience." And Kerrytown, he says, is "pretty much a ghost town."

Kerrytown manager Andrew O'Neal says he's letting stores set their own hours and Covid-related requirements. "We're not seeing the kind of numbers we usually see in July," he acknowledges, but "I'm trying to remain positive. People are starting to come back."

Davidson at Bivouac says it's been interesting to watch how customers responded to the evolving executive orders. "In the beginning," he says, "we sold a lot of loungewear. People were staying at home and buying sweatshirts and sweat pants. That was number one. Then when people could go outside again, athletic wear was the big seller."

More recently, "what's been selling is a lot of stuff for camping trips and for going up north. Some come in and say, 'Our trip to Europe got canceled, and so we're making local trips to the lake.'"

The other big seller is water bottles, since "all the water stations are shut down and there are no more drinking fountains."

At Kerrytown's Everyday Wines, manager Bill Rosemurgy sees another Covid response. "Sales go up and down depending on the news," he says. "During the extended stay-at-home order ... cases of wine were going out the door!"

"Good spirit—that's how we get through things," Rosemurgy adds. His customers were really loyal during the shutdown, and now that they're ordering online, "I'm learning their names." He's even learned to recognize them behind their masks: "I identify their eyes and foreheads."

Rosemurgy says the store has "adapted nicely" to infection-control protocols. Owner Mary Campbell says that they've erred on the side of caution, allowing only one customer in the store at a time.

It helps, Rosemurgy says, that "we're a well-established business, and we don't sell anything perishable ... Mary runs this business really well."

"We don't have a lot of retail," says Maggie Ladd, executive director of the South University Area Association. "We have Underground [Printing,] Ulrich's, and Motivation [boutique]. That's our retail." There are some services, like Wax Loft. Getting



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

With Art Fair canceled and the U-M's fall semester uncertain, "It's a struggle," says Bivouac's AJ Davidson. "The saving grace is the closing of the streets,"

they're letting it sit for twenty-four hours. If someone tries on shoes, they spray them with sanitizer afterward.

Bivouac is offering curbside pickup and same-day deliveries within a five-mile radius and has cut the minimum order for free shipping to \$29. But sales still "are not great," says Davidson. "Foot traffic is way down."

What's kept them going, he says, is the city's move to block off streets on weekends for sales and dining. "We have six tents outside the store," he says. "We're putting our clearance merchandise out there where people can see the stuff, browse, and come inside. It's bringing

Alan Freedman, who owns Four Directions on Main St., has been selling spiritually-leaning jewelry, rocks, books, and home decor for twenty-seven years. He says they closed "a day after St. Patty's Day," and fully reopened on May 19. Masks are required, and there are hand-sanitation areas, but instead of plexiglass shields, "we put a copper table in front of the register to keep a distance" between staff and customers.

The blessing for Freedman is that he owns his building, and, with shorter hours, he and his wife are able to run the store themselves.

your legs waxed and your hair done—are they going to survive this? That’s a good question, isn’t it?”

Her group persuaded the city to change the area’s zoning in 2006. “That’s why you see the development in the area,” says Ladd. “Our hope then was that with this development would come brand-new space on the bottom for businesses. That’s what we were hoping for—an increase in retail, so it wasn’t all restaurants.

“Each time one of the high-rises goes up, it creates a white box on the ground floor. It’s ready for new businesses to go in there.” But who actually rents it is “out of our control.

“We try to exert pressure to put retail in there. The response from commercial realtors is, ‘We need more parking.’” But “when we go to DDA and the city, they say, ‘We have no appetite to put more parking on South U.’ So we’re stymied from getting to our goal ... I feel like the stars are aligned against us.”

Underground Printing cut its footprint in half when it moved across South U into the Vic Village North high-rise (see Marketplace Changes, p. 33). But “we still love being part of communities,” said co-founder Rishi Narayan. “Physically being a part. We’re not willing to throw in the towel.”

Narayan says they closed down a few of their stores but are still in twenty-three locations nationally. “We’re all trying to figure out what this new world looks like,” he says.

Meanwhile, Underground’s old location across the street stands vacant, along with most of the block. Oakland County-based Hughes Properties emptied the storefronts last year to make room for yet another high-rise, Vic Village South. With lenders growing wary of campus projects, they needn’t have rushed: construction manager Sean Havera says work won’t start before mid-2021.

Everyday Wines has “adapted nicely” to infection control protocols, says manager **Bill Rosemurgy** (right). He’s even learned to recognize customers like Matt Dolan behind their masks: “I identify their eyes and foreheads.”



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

“Let’s face it,” Ladd says. “None of us know what this [pandemic] is going to do at all.”

Sandra Andrade, executive director of the Main Street Area Association, is working hard to respond to retailers’ concerns. When it comes to the street closures, “I try to do what the majority wants me to do.”

“We’re pretty much loving” the street closures, says a shopkeeper at Ten Thousand Villages on Main. They’re not putting merchandise outside, but they can tell that the people who come downtown “are enjoying and appreciating it.”

But Shinola assistant manager Simon Cayedito says the closings make it harder for customers wanting to do curbside pickup, and “it’s hard to gauge if business has ramped up” because of the pedestrian traffic. And he thinks the closings invite risky behavior. “I see crowds getting too close,” he says. “It doesn’t seem like the safest thing right now.”

Inside, Shinola has stringent protocols in place, like sanitizing objects before and after they’re touched, and limiting customers to one per salesperson. “It’s one of the safest work environments to be in,” Cayedito says.

We unwittingly called Vault of Midnight during a Free Comic Book Day promotion. A staffer couldn’t talk because “we’re super packed right now.”

Andrade said Cherry Republic has been helped by “an incredible online base.” And even during the shutdown, Om of Medicine was busy with curbside marijuana pickups. Literati maintains a lively online presence but, like Crazy Wisdom, is holding off on reopening for in-store shopping.

“Everybody is really trying to be helpful,” says Andrade, “and everybody is working together.” But what downtown will look like when it emerges from the pandemic, she says, is “still a work in progress.”



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land of a thousand flavors

ZINGLISH MUFFINS MAKE MICHIGAN DEBUT AT BAKEHOUSE

The Times has turned up information that indicates Zingerman's Bakehouse has begun baking an old American classic. English Muffins—known here, appropriately, by the place-based name “Zinglish Muffins”—have joined the nationally-recognized bakery's daily lineup. Times culinary historians have shared that English Muffins date back to the 1870s when British baker Samuel Thomas brought his recipe for “toaster crumpets” to New York. Over the years, Thomas' culinary curiosity turned into a widely celebrated American tradition.

150 years after Thomas started baking in Manhattan, a number of national brands dominate the English muffin section in supermarkets. The Times has learned there are very few handmade artisan English muffins to be had. The artisan offerings are as uncommon now as Thomas' innovative creation was when he introduced them in the Chelsea neighborhood of New York all those years ago. “Zingerman's Bakehouse, is once again, going back to the old to do something ‘new,’” said one baking historian.

Like everything from Zingerman's Bakehouse, the Zinglish muffins are made using only top-grade ingredients and traditional recipes. Made from organic wheat flour, the Zinglish muffins are first cooked on a griddle, then finished in the oven. The Deli and Roadhouse have them for sale as well—both to take home by the six pack and on menus, toasted and topped. At home, they're easy to use. Forked open to enhance the muffin's natural air pockets, then toasted, Times taste testers assert that the muffins make a near-perfect pairing with Zingerman's Creamery's handmade cream cheese.



“a humble, anarchistic inquiry into humility”

New pamphlet by Zingerman's co-founder arrives on bookshelves

While the world struggles to handle the pressures of a global pandemic and the country tries to come to terms with the problems and poisons created by over 500 years of racism, this new pamphlet offers up a quiet, meaningful, and highly informative conversation about humility. Humility, it seems, might just be a critical component of our work to recover and rebuild from both of these national challenges.

The pamphlet, *The Times* has learned, offers a humble and anarchistic inquiry by Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzwieg into a subject that rarely gets much recognition. In it, Ari shares his extensive learnings about humility and its importance in effective leadership from two years of inquiry. Reports indicate humility will turn out to be one of the primary messages for meaningful improvement in the pandemic period.

Does humility have much value when the country is in crisis? One national expert on the subject, appropriately asking for anonymity, answered: “It surely won't cure Coronavirus. But it might have altered the way we have—and will, still—respond. Without the humility to own our own part in creating the problem, acknowledge shortfalls, and ask for help, it will be hard to get through this situation effectively.” And as author and poet Wendell Berry wrote, “It is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.”

Available at zingtrain.com, Zingerman's Coffee Company, Roadhouse and Deli

zingtrain unveils Virtual training

When its nationally-recognized training seminars were shut down this past spring due to the pandemic, ZingTrain pivoted to produce a series of virtual live training sessions for business and not-for-profit leaders across the country. Early indicators have been positive and the rapid registrations have thrilled industry experts. Topics include visioning, energy management, and more. Katie Frank, co-managing partner says, “The virtual trainings make it easier for business owners to ‘send’ more staff—they save on the cost of travel so they're eager to invest smaller sums in the effective training and education for their teams.” The online training has also made the sessions much more geographically accessible—sign ups are coming in from Europe, Australia, and New Zealand!

View the schedule at zingtrain.com.



food tours brings a taste of hope to future travel

Zingerman's Food Tours' managing partner Kristie Brablec revealed that last month's offer to Times readers interested in booking food tours for 2021 generated great interest. “I'm so excited to feel the positive energy from our clients,” Brablec told the Times. If you, too, have been dreaming of visits to artisan cheese and wine producers, cooking lessons with chefs in Tuscany, and walking tours of ancient towns, visit zingermansfoodtours.com to explore 2021 itineraries.



tiny weddings

Take Off at Cornman Farms

What do you do when big weddings won't work? The Times has discovered a new “micro-wedding” alternative over at Zingerman's Cornman Farms! The Tiny Wedding, as they call it, is an all-inclusive wedding experience for up to 10 guests. Featuring a seasonal design by a local event designer, the experience includes 90 minutes at the award winning Cornman Farms, a former winner of the coveted Michigan Barn of the Year award. You get a ceremony, flowers, photos, a tiny cake from Zingerman's Bakehouse, and as Led Zeppelin once sang, a “whole lotta love!” Putting technology to work to compensate for the safety limitations of the moment, Tiny Wedding couples will be able to live-stream their ceremonies!

The number of Tiny Weddings available, The Times has learned, is very limited. Visit thetinywedding.com to learn more!

attention food lovers!



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If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at zingermanscommunity.com



For short reads, follow us on Twitter @zingermans and Instagram @zingermanscommunity

Restaurant Reviews

Everybody Eats at Nick's

But for now, not so many at a time.

Walk into Nick's Original House of Pancakes, and you will see a cross-section of Ann Arbor.

There are people from every age group, background, and walk of life—babies, children, U-M students, their visiting parents, firefighters, sports fans, locals, businesspeople, and older folks.

And don't forget the Michigan athletes, who often tower over other patrons or stand out because of their fit physiques.

Though everybody goes to Nick's, not as many people can dine these days. Nick's, which celebrated its tenth anniversary last December, is now operating at a smaller capacity due to Covid-19 health precautions.

But the elements that define its business remain: generous plates of food and friendly service.

The Nick in the name is Nick Panos, a member of the restaurant family whose places have dotted Ann Arbor for decades.

His mother, Helen, runs the Village Kitchen, and his sister, Georgia, has worked there. His aunt, Gina Pantely, owned the Broken Egg. His father, Demos, has owned—and sold—a variety of area places, including Maiz Mexican Cantina. Nick himself owned Smokehouse Blues.

As a kid, he worked in whatever jobs his parents assigned him. After getting a culinary degree and serving an internship with Marriott in Florida, he came home, dividing his time between his parents' restaurants and selling real estate.

But the idea of a breakfast place intrigued him. He kept the menu for a favorite pancake spot in his desk drawer, waiting for the right building to come on the market.

"Breakfast is my roots," Panos says. "That's what I grew up doing."

His chance came in 2009, when the Big Boy on Lohr Circle suddenly shut down.

KATHERINE DOWNIE



A realtor friend told Panos that he could have the property for nothing, including all the restaurant equipment, if he would sign a ten-year lease.

After spending \$100,000 to paint and upgrade the building, he opened Nick's. On the first day, the flow of customers was steady but not overwhelming.

On the second day, he recalls, a man came in the door and asked if he was open. Then he made a call on his cell phone. "Within an hour or two, the place just swelled up with people," Panos says, and Nick's was off and running.

"To this day, I cannot believe how lucky I am," Panos says. "I've really been blessed."

My family and I have dined there since the beginning, urged by Helen Panos to give her son's new place some business. The staff sang "Happy Birthday" to my mother, Bonny Maynard, on her 100th birthday in 2013, and her last meal out before she died in 2015 was at Nick's.

Last year, in advance of its tenth anniversary, Panos shut the restaurant briefly for another overhaul, which cost him about \$225,000. That turned out to be a stroke of luck. The renovations meant Panos did not have to tear up his interior when the state mandated changes in the wake of Covid-19.

He has erected a plastic shield between the cash register and customers, blocked off some booths, put more space

between tables, and no longer allows customers to congregate in what was a crowded waiting area up front. People now stand outside on the sidewalk or sit in their cars until a host comes to fetch them.

Before Covid-19, the restaurant did \$1.2 million to \$1.3 million a year in revenue, with a profit margin around 15 percent, Panos says. After being closed for three months, he expects he'll come in under one million for 2020.

The regular menu features both breakfast and lunch items. Seasonal specials that once filled two sides of a separate menu card have been paused for now.

When possible, Panos says he likes to source local products. Coffee comes from Mighty Good Coffee. He purchases ground beef from Knight's Market and baked goods from Michigan Bread in Taylor. He serves Dearborn Brand meat and recently added a Detroit favorite, McClure's Pickles.

Nick's uses several thousand eggs per week, and except for scrambled eggs, his cooks crack every egg to order.

That may be a reason why "Build Your Own Omelette" is the top-selling item on the menu. It costs \$8.69 including three fillings, and diners can add more items for \$1 each.

Other best sellers are two eggs, any style, with breakfast meat, at \$8.49, followed by eggs with a choice of pancakes or French toast at \$9.09 (meat \$3.99 extra).

I rotate between different types of pancakes and Nick's big salads. My favorite is the "Greek Vineyard," a variation on the classic that includes dried cranberries and walnuts as well as feta cheese, \$8.99. (Panos says chicken

breast is a popular add-on; I often ask for turkey instead.)

My mother's favorite was the Pecan Cranberry Chicken Salad, with big chunks of chicken, nuts, fruit, and minimal dressing. On her birthday, Panos made it a special of the day—renamed in her honor.

Even with fewer customers, the workload for his three cooks is fast-paced, because Panos stresses quick service.

"You've got to remember that this is most people's first meal of the day," Panos says. His goal is to serve patrons within fifteen minutes of ordering on weekdays and twenty minutes on weekends.

Panos says he tries to hire kitchen help that's experienced in high-volume cooking.

Cooks from Ann Arbor's fine-dining restaurants often can't cut it, he says. Panos recalls one new cook with a stellar resume who froze at the speed at which orders came into the kitchen. "I literally had to put on my gym clothes and go take his spot," he says.

From the start, Panos says he's been offered opportunities to expand.

He's spent years looking for a second location in a part of Ann Arbor not already served by a breakfast place, but with Angelo's, Northside Grill, and Coney Islands spread across town, an optimal spot has been hard to find. Given the pandemic, any growth is on hold, but he says he'll revisit the idea at the end of the year.


So for now, pancake lovers and those in search of eggs Benedict will simply have to trek to Lohr Circle.

—Micheline Maynard

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Marketplace Changes

by Micheline Maynard

Underground Printing Moves to Vic Village

And finds a Covid silver lining in charity T-shirts.

Underground Printing has been located somewhere on South University since 2006—originally on the north side of the street, where two ATMs now stand, then on the south side, next to Good Time Charley's, and, since this summer, on the north side again in the new Vic Village North student high-rise.

In a normal year, the Ann Arbor-based printer and retail chain would be ramping up to make school-themed swag and fill custom orders from university departments, clubs, and student organizations, says Rishi Narayan, who started printing T-shirts with fellow U-M engineering student Ryan Gregg in 1992. Now they have a major production facility on Jackson Rd. and more than twenty stores around the country. This year, with college life up in the air, they're filling the void with another specialty: charity T-shirts.

"Fundraising and online orders are something we've been doing for years and years," Narayan says. "In this time of Covid, it definitely turned into getting gear and swag and being able to virtually participate in events. We were doing that almost exclusively to a degree the past few months."

This spring, Underground Printing made T-shirts for the Ann Arbor Hospitality Fundraiser, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to staff members from sixty area restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and other small businesses. They also made shirts for a similar fundraiser supporting Chicago hospitality workers that showed the iconic John Hancock Building (now called 875 North Michigan Avenue) with a towel over its "arm," toting a tray. More than 27,000 of the \$25 shirts were purchased in less than twenty-four hours, according to Block Club Chicago, an online news site. "I was excited to be part of it," Narayan says. They also made the shirts for Zingerman's 2020 Reuben Tour (see Up Front, p. 9).

Narayan estimates that custom orders make up about 80 percent of Underground Printing's business, depending on location, which is why he's fine with the new store being about half the size of the previous one across the street.

Narayan isn't too worried about the uncertain academic schedule. "We know nothing about what's going to happen," he says, but "we don't expect a huge drop [in sales]. It varies market to market." And he figures the pandemic can't last forever. "If not this fall, then next fall," he says, "there will hopefully be a big push" to draw customers.



Underground Printing's production facility on Jackson Rd. supplies nearly two dozen stores around the country. Tony Kuszak manages the newly relocated shop on South University.

Underground Printing, 1107 South University, Ste. C. (734) 929-6648. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun. undergroundshirts.com

"There's No Going Back."

Despite the pandemic, Cakes by Rubina doubles its space.

Five years ago, Rubina Sadiq opened Cakes by Rubina in the back of the Courtyard Shops on Plymouth Road.

Now, when coffee shops and restaurants in Ann Arbor are falling victim to Covid-19 economics, Sadiq is doubling the size of her shop and expanding its menu.

She hadn't planned on growing amid a pandemic. "The work began in mid-February," she explains. "Had I known about the appearance of Covid, I don't think I would have proceeded forward."

"Now, it is what it is, and there's no going back."

A pediatrician in her native Pakistan, Sadiq retooled after her husband's IT career took them first to Australia and then to the U.S. She is taking over the space previously occupied by Midwest Bike & Tandem.

In addition to bigger kitchen and prep areas, she'll have more room to display her popular cakes, cupcakes, and French macarons, as well as an expanded selection of French and Italian pastries. She'll put more emphasis on her coffee cakes—"I'm very, very proud of our coffee cakes" and plans to start making Mackinac Island fudge, too.

Sadiq is hoping more people will be willing to venture out soon, especially if Washtenaw County can keep its Covid cases under control.

Sadiq says her cakes are particularly popular with university staff, as well as students who walk over from dorms, graduate housing, and apartments nearby. She also gets many orders from parents, especially for graduation parties.

"Commencement is one of our biggest events, and it was a bummer this year, because it was canceled," she says.

Among students, the most popular cake flavor is cookies and cream—they'll order it "ninety-nine percent of the time," Sadiq says young women like red velvet cake, while customers in their thirties and forties favor lemon and raspberry.

Six-inch cakes start at \$29.99 for a basic round cake; sheet cakes start at \$44.99 for a one-eighth sheet. Vegan and gluten-free versions are available.

Despite the additional space, customers will still have to get their cake to go.

"The first thing people asked me was whether I would have a sit-down area," Sadiq says. "I would love to do that, but I find this is the best arrangement for me...People can just come in and pick up their stuff," she says. "It's not like it's Meijer's. People come and buy, and we can easily control how many people are in the shop."

She's hoping more people will be willing to venture out soon, especially if Washtenaw County can keep its cases under control.

"In Ann Arbor, most places have done a very good job" adhering to Covid protocols, she says. "People are smart, and they are aware of what's happening."

Depending on final building inspections, Sadiq is hoping for a mid-August opening.

Cakes by Rubina, 1689 Plymouth Rd. (Courtyard Shops). (734) 730-5090. Tues.-Fri. noon-7 p.m., Sat. noon-5 p.m. Closed Sun. & Mon. cakesbyrubina.com

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Marketplace Changes

Briefly noted

After enjoying a healthy first year in Ann Arbor in 2019, **Motor City Bicycles** on Packard was off to a good start in 2020, says owner Scott Kellogg.

Then, Covid-19 hit. Kellogg's shops in Canton, Brighton, and Ann Arbor were shut down in March, while competitors in surrounding states were classified as essential businesses and allowed to operate. In addition to taking sales from Michigan businesses, Kellogg says, "those shops started gobbling up products."

When bike stores were allowed to reopen, "we had more customers than we ever had before," Kellogg says. But by then, there weren't enough bikes for everyone who wanted one: "Everything suppliers would normally have to ship has already been shipped."

Nationwide, sales of basic adult bicycles under \$200 tripled in April. Motor City's price point is higher—generally around \$350–\$1,000 for conventional adult versions, while specialty models can cost even more. But now, he says, even bicycles costing \$750 or more are hard to find.

"There's just a huge gap in the supply chain right now," he explains. Even repair work has been affected, because there's also a "huge shortage of parts," of which about 90 percent are produced in China.

"We have people waiting for parts that won't be in the U.S. until October or November or even later," he says. "We will do what we can to make it work, but there are certain tires that nobody in the state of Michigan has."

Kellogg says demand is bound to slacken once Covid restrictions end, but in the long term he believes his shops will benefit. Next, he says, these bike buyers will need helmets and shoes and to get their bicycles tuned up.

"A negative thing in a positive way has brought a lot of people back into the business."

Motor City Bicycle, 3162 Packard. (734) 389-7900. Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Fri. 11 a.m.–7 p.m. Sat & Sun. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Tues. motorcitybicycle.com

•••••

Two years ago, Ann Arborites watched the painstaking process as the former Creekside Grill on Jackson Rd. was transformed into the **Standard Bistro and Larder**—the French restaurant that former Zingerman's Roadhouse executive chef Alex Young had always dreamed about.

But Young left early last year after only about a year at the helm. His successor was Allie Lytle, who had cooked with him at the Roadhouse.

Now, the Standard is no more, yet another victim of the restaurant contraction triggered by Covid-19.

In July, the building reopened as **Lala's**, a weekend-only pop-up diner whose changeable menu has included pimento cheese appetizer and picnic chicken salad, burger, and pies such as French Silk.

Lytle says LaLa's is an interim project while they sort out the next identity for the building, which she vows will return as a full-service restaurant. Even with Covid restrictions, they can seat sixty people indoors and about twenty more on the deck outside.

Lytle is urging people with gift cards for the Standard to use them at LaLa's by August 31.

Meanwhile, Young has moved on to become the executive chef at **Vinology** on S. Main. Vinology announced his arrival in a July Facebook post, along with photos of five of his dinner creations.

LaLa's, 5827 Jackson Rd. (734) 263-2543. Fri. & Sat. 5 p.m.–10 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Mon.–Thurs. toasttab.com.

Closings

Mikette, the French bistro on Plymouth with red trim and a Mediterranean-inspired menu, closed June 23. Owner Adam Baru announced the closing on Facebook and the restaurant's website. Originally focused on dishes from the south of France, reflecting Baru's love for the region's seafood-focused cuisine, it underwent an extensive menu update last year that added Middle Eastern, Moroccan, Portuguese, and Spanish dishes.

"Covid was the ultimate backbreaker," Baru says. "If we had another year to figure it out, we probably would have." But with the pandemic, "the focus became very clear: we had to focus on what got us here," his two downtown restaurants, **Mani Osteria** and **Isalita**, which share a building at the corner of E. Liberty and Division.

Closing Mikette "was a hard decision, but I'm sure it was the right decision," Baru says. He's updating the downtown restaurants' operational procedures and training protocols and looking for ways to innovate.

He says he's already convinced his landlord to let him transform a parking lot behind the building into outdoor seating for Isalita; Mani will inherit its current sidewalk seating on Liberty.

•••••

Restaurant closings are hitting campus, too: in addition to the Espresso Royale cafés on State and South University (Marketplace Changes, July), Sava Lelcay's **Wilma's** (né Fred's, né Babo market) and **Piada Italian Street Food** have announced they will not reopen. Several other places remain closed "temporarily"—with final decisions presumably dependent on how the U-M's abbreviated fall semester plays out. ■

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



Reopening schools in the fall will take new safety requirements, procedures, and schedules. Local schools are updating safety protocols, online learning alternatives, class size, and daily routines to ensure the safety of students and faculty. Below is a list of local schools' new guidelines per the CDC and State of Michigan. Please check each website for updated procedures as these guidelines are subject to change.

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I - August 31

II - September 23

III - October 7

IV - October 23



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E-mail: thediscoverycenter@thediscoverycenterpreschool.com
Website: thediscoverycenterpreschool.com

BACK TO
SCHOOL
GUIDE

Aim High School is dedicated to the academic and social success of 6th-12th graders with high functioning ASD, ADHD, anxiety disorders or who struggle in large school environments for other reasons. Small classes are taught by licensed teachers who develop strong and positive relationships with each student. Students receive a personalized curriculum featuring traditional academics, technology, a variety of electives, and social and life skills. Students enjoy a happy and safe environment where they are valued by their teachers and each other. This coming school year, Aim High will be providing a safe environment following all the CDC and State of MI protocols for students to attend in-person. In addition, they are offering a live, interactive, and robust online school option as an alternative.

Aim High School, aimhighschool.com
29230 W. 12 Mile Rd., Farmington Hills, (248) 702-6922

ByKids4Kids is a nonprofit organization led by kids focusing on serving youth in the community. Student volunteers ranging from elementary school-high school are putting on a drive for school supplies benefiting the Michigan Foster Care Center, which helps children in foster care and families going through financial troubles due to Covid-19. Three drop off locations: AADL Westgate, St. Francis Parish, and Reinhart Realtors north office. ByKids4Kids understands how stressful going back to school is this year and wants to help. A virtual reading program, Kindle-s4Covid, is designed to help children during this pandemic. Kids are given Kindles and weekly reading sessions with buddies to foster reading and new friendships. To learn more or get involved, visit bykids4kids.us or contact ehudson@bykids4kids.us

ByKids4Kids, bykids4kids.us

Clonlara School has a Contingency Campus Program Plan for the 2020-21 school year that will allow them to alternate between in-person and distance learning in the event of another school closure. Although Clonlara intends to resume in-person learning on a five-day schedule with safety measures in place, a transition to distance learning for any part of the school year will include: online group and one-on-one learning sessions with teachers, flexibility and choice for students to explore their interests through self-directed learning and more structured assignments, access to the online tools developed during the initial school closure and additional high quality learning resources curated by their education team, and tuition adjustments in the event of an extended closure lasting more than four weeks. To learn about their campus, homeschool, and distance-learning options, please contact (734) 769-4511 or info@clonlara.org.

Clonlara School, clonlara.org
1289 Jewett, Ann Arbor, (734) 769-4511

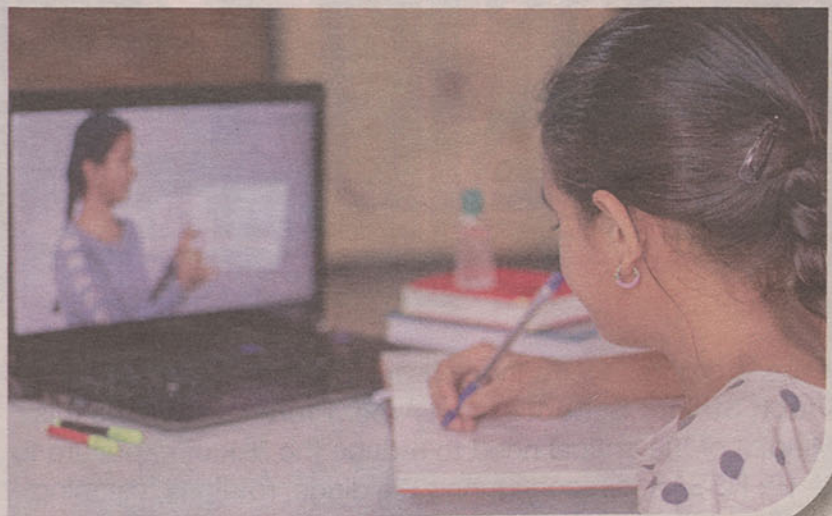
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email: school@stfrancisaa.org • www.stfrancisaa2.com/school



The Discovery Center is closely following the State of Michigan and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) in Guidelines for Safe Child Care Operations During Covid-19. The Discovery Center strives to create a school culture of support, respect, and collaboration. In doing so, they will work together to promote best practices in hygiene, screening, distancing, and mask use to promote well-being and good health for students, staff, and families. Programs for 2 ½–5-year-olds, including full- and half-day preschool, young 5's, and summer camps. The Discovery Center is excited to offer newly expanded and upgraded playgrounds, a new woodland playground for outdoor exploration, and a 1:8 or lower ratio with consistent teaching teams

The Discovery Center,
thediscoverycenterpreschool.com
 775 S. Maple, Ann Arbor, (734) 663-7496

The fall of 2020 and beyond brings with it many unknowns. One thing, however, is clear—whatever form in which school takes place, students at **Emerson School** will be assured the same high-quality whole-child approach to education since the school's inception in 1973. Emerson's small class sizes and independence allow a greater degree of flexibility in these uncertain times. Emerson has developed a fall 2020 action plan which not only responds to the safety challenges posed by the spread of Covid-19 but also ensures the education of students does not miss a beat.

Emerson School, emerson-school.org
 5425 Scio Church Rd., Ann Arbor, (734) 665-5662



The Learning Continues...

THE FALL OF 2020 AND BEYOND BRINGS WITH IT MANY UNKNOWN.

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We are currently enrolling students from Young Fives to 8th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. To learn more or to schedule a tour, contact Admissions Director Lisa Psarouthakis at 734-665-5662, extension 303, or email admissions@emerson-school.org.

emerson-school.org | 734.665.5662 | 5425 Scio Church Rd, Ann Arbor

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DONATE SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

August 17th - September 7th, 2020

Buy a backpack and fill it with school supplies to help a child in need! Drop off locations are at Reinhart Realtors (**2200 Green Road**), Ann Arbor District Library Westgate Branch (**Rear entrance Vestibule, 2503 Jackson Ave**) and St. Francis Parish (**2250 E Stadium Blvd**)

Supplies go to Michigan Foster Care Center

YOU CAN ALSO DONATE VIRTUALLY BY VISITING OUR REGISTRY AT:
BIT.LY/OPERATIONBACK2SCHOOL

BUILD A BACK2SCHOOL READY KIT:

1 backpack to hold supplies • 1 notebook • 1 pencil pouch • 1 pack of colored pencils • 1 pack of markers • 1 pack of crayons • 10 pencils • 3 pens • 2 glue sticks • 1 large eraser • 2 highlighter markers • 1 pack of sticky notes

Contact Emma Hudson at ehudson@bykids4kids.us with questions

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE



Plans are in progress for a five-full-day on-campus experience for **Rudolf Steiner School** of Ann Arbor PreK-12 students this fall! Mindful of the critical need to reduce the risk of exposure to Covid-19, RSSAA is reconfiguring buildings, routines, cleaning and staffing with the intention to safely meet students' social-emotional and academic needs. If it becomes required, they are also making sure they're ready to accommodate remote learning as quickly and effectively as they did last spring, both across the school and for individual school families who are unable to be on campus. The goal has always been to make this amazing education accessible to every family who wants it and that still holds true, even in a pandemic. RSSAA is ready for the challenge!

Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor,

SteinerSchool.org

2230 Pontiac Tr., Ann Arbor, (734) 210-1069

St. Francis of Assisi will open up classrooms five days a week for all students, following the MI Safe Schools Roadmap, along with their individual action plan for Covid-19 mitigation. Classrooms will be their own cohorts, and will not mix. Virtual options will be available as needed.

St. Francis of Assisi, stfrancis2.com/school

2270 E. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, (734) 821-2200

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Washtenaw Community College, wccnet.edu

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August Events

GALLERIES

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Maggie McMillin

EVENT REVIEWS

41 Elements of Theater

Getting over myself
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Charmie Gholson

42 Keeping Our Creations Close

Sara Adlersteins "Not for Sale:
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43 Events for kids 12 and under

Ella Bourland & Maggie McMillin

TIPS FOR READING

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

Unless otherwise noted, all phone numbers have area code (734).

Online event listings include a URL. This link either directs you to (1) a preregistration page or (2) the online location itself. For security reasons, preregistration may be required in order to limit the number of persons in attendance.

★ Denotes a free event

Note: This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**, all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's opening up. Published events reflect plans as of press day (20 July). The most up-to-date calendar of events is available at AnnArborObserver.com

Whether these venues are open or not, we strongly recommend that you **stay home** until the public health crisis has abated.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month**.

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769-3175
- **Mail:** Calendar Editors, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **Fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers. Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 10th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at AnnArborObserver.com.

Due to space limitations, **many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar**. This is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

1 SATURDAY

★**"Ann Arbor Tri": Epic Races.** All invited to compete in a sprint triathlon, duathlon, mini sprint tri, relay, or aquabike race. Also, a virtual race option that allows participants to compete from any location. Awards, medals for finishers, T-shirts, & more. 7:30 a.m. (registration opens at 5:45 a.m.), Halfmoon Lake Beach, 8725 Hankerd Rd., Dexter Twp. \$45-\$135 in advance only at EpicRaces.com; \$11 annual park pass required for entry. Info@EpicRaces.com, 531-8747.

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit.** Every Sat. & Mon. Runners of all abilities invited to join a 3-8 mile run along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session (every Tues. 6:30 p.m., 5700 Jackson Rd.). Snacks. Rain or shine. 8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. and 6:30 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769-5016 (Mon.), 929-9022 (Tues. & Sat.).

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** Aug. 1, 2, 8, 15, & 22. All invited to help remove invasive plants in various city parks. Wear a mask, long pants, closed-toe shoes and maintain a 6-ft. distance from others at all times; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. All minors should be accompanied by a caregiver. Aug. 1: Furstenberg Nature Area. Aug. 2: Barton Nature Area. Aug. 8: Kuebler Langford Nature Area and Bird Hills Nature Area (1-4 p.m.). Aug. 15: Ruthven Nature Area. Aug. 22: Olson Park. 9 a.m.-noon (except as noted), various locations. Free, preregistration required at Secure.Recl.com/MI/city-of-ann-arbor/catalog (click on "NAP Workdays"). 794-6627.

★**"Neurodiversity Lounge-ADHD: Coffee Chat."** All adults with ADD or ADHD invited to chat, play games, and more in this informal chat group. 10 a.m., for online meeting URL see MeetUp.com/ADD-ADHD-Coffee-Chat-Ann-Arbor. Free.

★**Ann Arbor Virtual Pride: Jim Toy Community Center.** Virtual LGBTQ celebration with livestream music, poetry readings, drag and burlesque performances, & more. Headliner is singer-songwriter Laith Al-Saadi, an Ann Arbor native whose blend of blues, soul, and classic rock earned him a spot on NBC's singing competition show *The Voice*. The online "kids zone" features craft instructions and picture book readings by drag queens. Also, a silent auction with goods from local businesses. Complete schedule available at AnnArborPride.com. 11 a.m., online at AnnArborPride.com. Free.

★**"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy.** Every Sat. & Sun. Conservancy staffers show off their kangaroo, blue-tongued skink, and dingo (2 p.m.). Also, a chance to see the conservancy's other animals, highlighted by a coyote, Gila monster, and skunk. Attendance limited to 30 percent capacity. 1-3 p.m., *Creature Conservancy*, 4950 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. \$10 (kids ages 2-12, \$8; age 1 & under, free) in advance only at TheCreatureConservancy.org. 929-9324.

★**Union Base Ball Club of Dexter.** Aug. 1, 16, & 23. Baseball using 1860s-era rules against teams from around the state. Aug. 1: **Flint Lumber City BBC.** Aug. 16: **Detroit BBC.** Aug. 23: **Royal Oak Wahoo BBC.** 2 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church grounds, 6805 Mast at Territorial, Dexter. Free. UnionBBC.com

★**Matt Watroba & Robert Jones: The Ark Family Room Series.** This veteran duo has been making music together for more than 20 years, ever since they met while doing back-to-back music shows on WDET-FM. WKAR radio host Watroba sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, accompanying himself on guitar and punctuating his performance with sharply humorous observations. Jones, an ordained Baptist minister, is an excellent singer and guitarist whose huge repertoire draws on Delta, Texas, Chicago, and other blues traditions. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

★**Eaddy: The Blind Pig.** Veteran Ypsilanti hip-hop MC. Openers are several other local hip-hop acts, including Louis Picasso, Kenyatta Rashon, Sigidy, Gee Floyd, E-Mag, JeVon Alexander, and DJ LiXer. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.), The Blind Pig, 208 S. Ashley. Tickets \$10 in advance at BlindPigMusic.com/ Calendar & at the door: 996-8555.

2 SUNDAY

★**"Guided Healing Meditation": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Sun. Jewel Heart instructor leads a White Tara guided meditation session with a focus on healing visualizations. 9:45-10:40 a.m., for online meeting URL preregister at bit.ly/whitetarameditation. Free. 994-3387.

★**Introductory Dharma Talk: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Sun. Jewel Heart's resident spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche discusses various current issues from a spiritual perspective. 11 a.m., for livestream URL preregister at bit.ly/jewelddharmatalk. Free. 994-3387.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** Every Sun. All invited to join a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. 11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846-9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com

★**Online Improv Games: Ypsi Improv.** Every Sun., Wed., & Fri., except Aug. 26, 28, & 30. All invited to practice improv principles with this local group. Followed by socializing. No experience necessary. Spectators welcome. 2 p.m. (Sun.), 7 p.m. (Wed.), and 8 p.m. (Fri.), for online meeting URL see MeetUp.com/Ypsi-Improv/Events. Free.

★**"Shut Up & Write!"** Every Sun. All writers invited to this hour-long freewrite (automatic writing session) in a group setting. Bring earbuds to block out the occasional chatter, if you like. Followed by socializing. 4 p.m., for online meeting URL, see MeetUp.com/ShutUpAndWriteAnnArbor/Events. Free.

★**Accidentally Hip: Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** Livestream swing music and more by this Detroit-area big band fronted by vocalist Courtney Riddle. 4:15 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free, donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

★**Gemini Livestream Concert.** Every weekday, except Wed. Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits of the nationally renowned local acoustic duo Gemini, along with San's folk musician daughter Emily, present short livestream concerts on their Facebook page. The schedule (subject to change): children's shows by San & Emily (Mon.) and Laz (Thurs.) and "grown-up's" shows by Laz (Tues.) and San & Emily (Fri.). 5 p.m., Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic. Free, but donations for Food Gatherers or a charity of your choice accepted during each performance.

★**Virtual Improv Jam: Community Garden Party.** Aug. 2, 16, & 30. Livestream improv games led by this Pointless Brewery & Theatre improv team. All invited to join in, or just watch. All proceeds go to Pointless. Aug. 2 & 16: Short-form improv. Aug. 30: Long-form improv. 7 p.m., for livestream preregister at Facebook.com/CommunityGardenParty. \$5.

3 MONDAY

★**"Healing and Compassion Meditation": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Mon. Led by Jewel Heart program codirector Hartmut Sagolla. Noon, for online meeting URL preregister at bit.ly/healingandcompassion. Free. 994-3387.

★**"Noontime Exercise" U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Mon., Wed., & Fri. All ages invited to follow basic prerecorded movements. No equipment necessary. Tai Chi (noon-12:30 p.m.) and "Walking Off the Pounds," walking in place (12:30-1 p.m.). Various times, for online meeting URL call 998-9353 or email TSWP.info@umich.edu. Free.

★**"Summer Carillon Concerts": U-M School of Music.** Aug. 3 & 10. Carillonists from around the country perform a series of free outdoor concerts on the U-M's massive 60-bell Robert and Ann Lurie Carillon. Aug. 3: Grand Rapids-based pianist and carillonist Julianne Vanden Wyngaard. Aug. 10: Yale Carillon student Paul Stelben. 7 p.m., Ann & Robert H. Lurie Tower, 1230 Murfin Ave. Free.

★**Jacob Warren: The Ark Family Room Series.** Solo show from this local multi-style bassist, performing an eclectic mix of solo double-bass arrangements in different genres. Warren has appeared as part of the acoustic group Westbound Situation, with local folk singers San & Emily Slomovits, and in a folk-classical duo with violinist-guitarist Grant Flick. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

4 TUESDAY

★**"Virtual Meditation Drop-In": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Every Tues. Local insight mindful meditation instructor Bilha Birman Rivlin leads an informal ses-

sion for all ages & experience levels. 10 a.m., for online meeting URL preregister at bit.ly/virtualmeditation2 or call 998-9353. Free.

"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Aug. 4, 11, & 18. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips. 6-8 p.m., for in-person or online location preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch. \$2 monthly dues. 945-3035.

"Troubadour Tuesday." Every Tues. Livestream performances from his home by **Chris Buhalis**, a popular veteran local singer-songwriter who sings engaging, fresh-minded folk-country originals, often with an acerbic topical edge, in a rich, warm voice. His latest CD, *Big Car Town* is a collection of songs exploring and celebrating his working-class heritage. 6-8 p.m., online at Facebook.com/chris.buhalis.5. Free; donations accepted.

"Voices in Harmony." Every Tues. All women invited to join the weekly online rehearsals of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. 7-9:30 p.m., for online meeting URL email Info@VoicesInHarmonyChorus.org. Free to visitors (\$26 monthly dues for those who join). 612-7580.

"Virtual Songwriters Open Mic: Oz's Music Environment." All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. 7:30-9:30 p.m., for online meeting URL email JimNovakMusic@gmail.com or preregister on MeetUp.com/Ozs-Music-Songwriters-Open-Mic. Free. 662-8283.

"German Conversation." Every Tues. & Thurs. All German speakers, native or non-native, invited for conversation with either or both of 2 long-running groups, the German Speakers Round Table (Tues.) and the Stammtisch (Thurs.). Note: Face masks required. 8-10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453-2394 (Tues.) & 678-1017 (Thurs.).

5 WEDNESDAY

"Live from the B-Hive." Every Wed. Livestream performances from his home by **Mark "Mr. B" Braun**, a popular veteran local musician with an international reputation as one of the most exciting interpreters of traditional boogie-woogie and blues piano. 5:30-6:30 p.m., online at Facebook.com/mrbpiano. Free; donations accepted.

"Currently Reading Cocktail Hour": Nicola's Books. Every Wed. Nicola's booksellers discuss their favorite summer reads and make cocktails over livestream. 7 p.m., for online meeting URL see Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. Free. NicolasBooks.com

"Kerrytown Crafters." Every Wed. All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their projects. Questions welcome, help available. 7 p.m. or so, for updates on in-person or online location, join Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. Free. 926-8863.

"Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society." Every Wed. Male singers invited to join the weekly online rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. 7 p.m., for online meeting URL email info@HVharmonizers.org. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 796-7467.

"Brooke Annibale: The Ark Family Room Series." Pittsburgh-based singer-songwriter who writes low-key songs with soulful lyricism and a nuanced palette of emotions. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

6 THURSDAY

"Tangle Time": Tangle Addicts (Zentangle Community). Every Thurs. All invited to draw structured patterns and learn techniques for mindful (and satisfactory) doodling. 11 a.m.-noon, for online meeting URL see MeetUp.com/Tangle-Addicts-Zentangle-Community/Events. Free.

"Nature Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Naturalist Shawn Severance leads a morning hike. Bring a mask, bug spray, and water. 7 p.m., County Farm Park. Free.

preregistration required by emailing Severances@Washtenaw.org. Washtenaw.org/Parks

"Karen Dionne: Nicola's Books." Livestream conversation with this Michigan-based suspense writer, whose brand-new novel *The Wicked Sister* is a psychological murder mystery set in the remote forests of the UP. 7 p.m., for livestream URL see Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. Free. NicolasBooks.com

"Virtual Comhaltas." Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. 7 p.m., for online meeting URL email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org. Free. Facebook.com/DetroitIMA

7 FRIDAY

"Clements Bookworm Online Event": U-M Clements Library. Every Fri. Panelists and featured guests TBA discuss history topics TBA in this weekly webinar. For upcoming topics see Clements.umich.edu/Bookworm. 10 a.m., for online meeting URL preregister at myumi.ch/gjgzR. Free. 649-3370.

"First Chapter Fridays": Nicola's Books. Every Fri. Nicola's booksellers and guests TBA read the first chapter of their favorite Young Adult and intermediate-level books. 11 a.m., for online meeting URL see Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. Free. NicolasBooks.com

"Virtual Bingo: Saline Senior Center." Every Fri. All invited. 11:15 a.m., for online meeting URL email MeganKenyon@kenyonM@SalineSchools.org. Free. 429-9274.

"A Cantor's Head": Ann Arbor Jewish Film Festival. Online screening of Erik Greenberg Anjou's 2019 documentary about renowned cantor Jack Mendelson and this centuries-long art form that combines spiritual exploration, communal bonding, and showmanship. Part of an annual festival of documentary and feature films on Jewish themes. For complete festival schedule, see Film.jccAnnArbor.org. Online anytime between Aug. 7-31 at Film.jccAnnArbor.org. \$12 per film. 971-0990.

"Meet the Maker: Cheyanne Symone": Ab-racadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery. Livestream discussion with Brittany Cheyanne Turner, the founder, owner, and creative director of Ypsilanti-based earring brand Cheyanne Symone. 4 p.m., online at Instagram.com/AbraJewelry. Free. 994-4848.

"Disc Golf: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission." An introductory program to disc golf. Covers safety, rules and basic throwing skills. All disc golf equipment provided, no prior experience required. 6 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. \$10 per family, up to 5 people per family. Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

"Corey Harris: The Ark Family Room Series." This Colorado-born bluesman and MacArthur "genius grant" recipient has traveled extensively in West Africa and incorporates its music, as well as reggae, into his style. He has appeared with B.B. King, Ali Farka Touré, and Olu Dara, among others. He was the narrator of Martin Scorsese's blues film *Feel Like Going Home*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

8 SATURDAY

"Heckuva Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads a 3.5-mile hike along the forests and open fields of the River Raisin. Bring a mask, sunscreen, bug spray, and water. 10:00 a.m., Leonard Preserve, 375 N. Union St., Manchester. Free, preregistration required by emailing dehringk@washtenaw.org. Washtenaw.org/Parks

"Known Obstacles: Oz's Music Environment." All invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band for kids and adults with special needs. Spectators welcome. 10:30 a.m., for online meeting URL see bit.ly/ozkidsopenmic (meeting ID, 933 1925 5392; password, 362147). Free. 662-8283.

theater

Elements of Theater

Getting over myself with Brass Tacks Ensemble

I dial the number, sort out the audio permissions, and join the meeting. Pre-Covid, this playwriting club met at a local coffee shop; now they meet by Zoom.

Mary Conley and Isaac Ellis introduce themselves. Conley's "kind of the leader," Ellis says. They're both on the board and Ellis is the executive director.

It's just the three of us at first, which actually works to my benefit. I'm a seasoned writer but I'm new to playwriting and have lots of questions.

The group is hosted by the Brass Tacks Ensemble (BTE), whose name is derived from the old adage, "getting down to brass tacks." They mean business. BTE has always been small, Ellis says, and that's how they like it—that way "the focus is more on storytelling, less on spectacle." This sounds like my kind of action. They just celebrated twenty years—of producing theater in rented space—as they have no brick-and-mortar to call home. "We try to be fiscally responsible," Conley says.

Once they're done catching me up to speed, it's time to get down to brass tacks. BTE has produced things they've written themselves; mostly short, ten-minute plays. Now they're focusing on full-length plays and transitioning to working together over Zoom. "There has been a lot of adjusting," Conley says.

Someone joins the conference just as I have to ditch out to take a quick call from my son. When I get back Ellis is getting real. He is talking about a workshop where part of the

process was throwing away your work. Just literally throwing it right in the trash.

"Get over yourself," he advises. "Throw away what you just wrote." I love it.

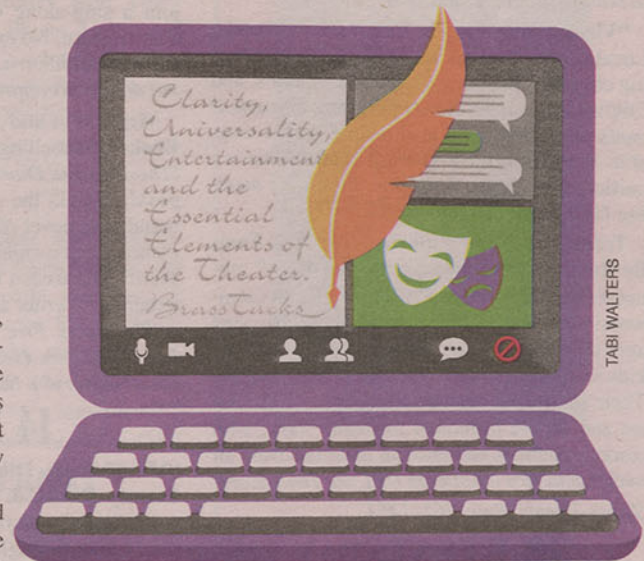
He's encouraging in many ways, including offering some tricks if we're overwhelmed by the enormity of writing a play. "Just do manageable chunks," he says, "Just tell yourself, 'I'm going to shift my focus and just write a couple of monologues.'" Again, stellar advice.

For the next meeting, we agree to upload our writing to the Google Group a week in advance. Ellis has a goal of finishing a specific act. Conley is working on some monologues. I'm going to research formatting, and by research, I mean read Shakespeare and try to finish my outline. I feel pretty darn excited by the time we say goodbye.

"The world is pretty crazy right now," Conley says, "and you almost feel like I shouldn't be writing. But we're all here because we love theater and we keep getting pulled back into it."

The Brass Tacks Ensemble's playwriting club meets next on August 11. Email TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com for the online location.

—Charmie Gholson



"Living Room Live! Online": Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild. Storytelling by Lyn Ford, a nationally recognized Columbus-based storyteller with a repertoire of stories from various African American traditions. Host is Chelsea-based fiction writer & playwright Steve Daut. 7-8 p.m., for livestream URL preregister at tinyurl.com/LRLive2U. Pay what you can (\$10 or more suggested donation). Mail@SteveDaut.com

9 SUNDAY

"Ron Brooks Trio: Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series." Livestream bebop-rooted mainstream jazz by a trio led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Rick Roe and drummer Pete Siers. 4:15 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free; donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

"Virtual Open Mics": Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam. Aug. 9 & 23. Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country over Zoom. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. 7-9 p.m., for online meeting URL preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 973-7791.

"Parsonfield: The Ark Family Room Series." Tentative. Western Massachusetts alt-folk quintet (they recorded their first album in Parsonfield, Maine) whose music blends a rowdy, rock 'n' roll spirit with bluegrass and folk influences. The band has a new album, *Happy Hour on the Floor*. 7:30 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

10 MONDAY

"Virtual Scandinavian Music Jam." Aug. 10 & 24. Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. 7:30-9:30 p.m., for online meeting URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free. (908) 721-2599.

11 TUESDAY

"Virtual Playwriting Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble." See review, above. This local troupe leads writing exercises and discussions centered around character development & conflict, narrative arcs, and more. 6:30 p.m., for online meeting URL email TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com. Free. Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble

"Bluegrass Jam Circle": Ann Arbor Senior Center. Aug. 11 & 25. All musicians invited to bring their acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome, too.

★ Denotes a free event

7-9 p.m., for location and other updates see a2bluGrass.com. Price TBA.

★**"Virtual Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris.** Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. No set program; all participants are welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. This is a participatory event. 7-10 p.m., for online meeting URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.

★**Trout Fishing in America: The Ark Family Room Series.** The acoustic duo of 6' 9" guitarist Ezra Idlet and 5' 5 1/2" bassist Keith Grimwood switched to kids' music about 10 years ago (they've been around for 3 decades, but both kids and adults tend to enjoy all of their music). Their shows are somewhere between folk music and an old-fashioned medicine show, with comedy routines and musical materials from all over. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

12 WEDNESDAY

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word over Zoom": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. 7 p.m., for online meeting URL email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com. Free.

★**"Summer Sunset Yoga at the Park": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Every Wed. Drop-in guided outdoor "slow flow" yoga sessions. All levels welcome, no experience necessary. Please bring your own mat and wear a mask. 7 p.m. (Aug. 12) & 6 p.m. (Aug. 19 & 26). Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. \$10. Check Washtenaw.org/Parks for weather-related cancellations.

13 THURSDAY

★**"Let's Get Crafty/Chill Hangouts in the Park."** All queer adults invited to bring their own craft projects to work on during this informal hangout. 6-8 p.m., County

Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. MeetUp.com/I-Need-Queer-Friends

★**"Virtual Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. 7 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327-0270.

★**Meg Cabot and Jasmine Guillory: Nicola's Books.** Bestselling romance novelists Cabot (*The Princess Diaries*) and Guillory (*The Proposal*) discuss the romance genre and Cabot's brand-new novel *No Offense*, a small-town romance about a children's librarian and the town sheriff. Discussion led by Ineye Komonibo, entertainment writer at pop culture website *Refinery29*. 7 p.m. Free, preregistration required at EventBrite.com (search "Meg Cabot and Jasmine Guillory"). NicolasBooks.com

14 FRIDAY

★**"Mindfulness Hike & Yoga": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** A WCPARC naturalist leads a 30-minute leisurely hike through the woods, followed by a 30-minute session of deep breathing and gentle yoga. All levels welcome, no experience necessary. Please bring your own mask and mat or beach towel. 6 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. \$10 per family of 5 or less. Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

★**"Swift Nights Out": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Aug. 14-16. All invited to view chimney swifts gathering at dusk and count them as they enter chimneys. Participants choose a known roosting location and report back to WAS organizers. Part of a national effort to monitor the migration of this bird and learn its favorite chimneys for overnight roosting. 8:15 p.m., for location updates preregister at WashtenawAudubon.org. Free. FieldTrips@WashtenawAudubon.org.

15 SATURDAY

★**"WordPress Websites 2.0": MacTechnics.** All invited to learn how to use WordPress to create a website. Step-by-step instructions provided

galleries

Exhibits this month:

Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild, GAAQG. com.CelebrateTheQuiltsFromHomeShow (Aug. 1-31). Online display of more 175 quilts made by guild members, including bed and wall quilts, special exhibits "Monet Challenge" and "Quilt Rescue 9-1-1," and quilts for sale. Suggested \$6 donation; all proceeds go to the SafeHouse domestic violence shelter.

Gutman Gallery, bit.ly/gutmangallery. *Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair Online Exhibit* (July 8-Aug. 29). Art in various media by thirty-eight would-be 2020 Art Fair artists.

Michigan Art Gallery at Schmidt's Antiques, MichiganArtGallery.com & 5138 W. Michigan Ave, Ypsilanti (brick-and-mortar gallery open by appointment only). *Leon Makielski (1885-1974) Art Retrospective*. (Aug. 14-Sep. 30). Portrait and landscape paintings by this mid-century Michigan impressionist painter and U-M art prof.

Riverside Arts Center, RiversideArts.org. *Present: An Online Exhibit.* Community-submitted art in various media. *Made in 60 Minutes.* Online exhibit of work in various media, made by six EMU MFA students during an hour-long livestream.

SculptureWalk Chelsea. For locations in downtown Chelsea, see ChelseaFestivals.com/SculptureWalk. Annual rotating outdoor exhibition of multimedia sculptures by artists from around the country.

U-M Clements Library, bit.ly/clements-lib. Multiple online exhibits about early Ameri-

can history, featuring digitized documents from the Clements collection.

U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, bit.ly/kelsey-library. Digitized versions of past exhibits, plus the current exhibit *Randal Stegmeyer: Exposing the Past*, a collection of Stegmeyer's photos of Kelsey Museum artifacts.

U-M Libraries, lib.umich.edu/online-exhibits. Digitized materials from library collections, featuring everything from children's books to 19th-century fashion illustrations.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, bit.ly/bonsai2020. *Bonsai in Bloom.* Photos of Matthaei's blooming Satsuki azalea bonsai trees and a video tour of this year's collection.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, bit.ly/virtualbard. *The Virtual Bard: Shakespeare in the Arb Online.* Photos of Shakespeare in the Arb through the years, plus video clips from past productions, a reading by this year's cast, and more.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), umma.umich.edu. Digitized materials from UMMA's collection. Also, "Medicine @ the Museum," an online exhibit of work from the collection that speaks to Covid-19 and the history of medicine.

WSG Gallery, WSG-Art.com. *Not for Sale: My Private Collection* (Aug. 18-Sep. 28). See review, right. Abstract oil paintings by local painter Sara Adlerstein, created over a period of almost 40 years. Inspiration ranges from family life to microalgae to natural disasters.

gallery



SARA ADLERSTEIN-GONZALEZ

Keeping Our Creations Close

Sara Adlerstein's "Not for Sale: My Private Collection"

Few things are more seductive than hearing a stranger's secrets, and looking at something beautiful that you can never possess.

Both temptations play a role in Sara Adlerstein's new online art exhibit, "Not for Sale: My Private Collection." A response to WSG Gallery's recent (May 26th) brick-and-mortar closure, it showcases an often-stunning array of the abstract painter's most personally meaningful pieces, with comments that explain their context and inspiration.

The result is a bracingly intimate experience. Arranged chronologically and spanning nearly forty years, "Not For Sale" begins with Adlerstein's early life as a scientist in Chile. Studying aquatic ecology in college (she's now a research scientist at U-M's School for Environment and Sustainability), Adlerstein spent hours staring at microalgae through a microscope lens. These "silent worlds" gave shape to her artistic vision.

The exhibit's exuberant opening piece, "Micrasterias spp.," is perhaps less accomplished and polished than later works, but that's key to its emotional pull. The acrylic-on-wood painting is the equivalent of a college snapshot, Adlerstein explains: "I have moved more times than I want to remember," she writes, yet this piece always accompanies her, reminding her of the moment when her artistic voice first spoke.

The more textured, earthy "Placida," meanwhile, is as much about its materials as its imagery. When Adlerstein left Chile with her sons (then ages eight and eleven) for grad school in Seattle, her mother gave the boys a gouache paint set. She used it to paint something akin to a self-portrait-in-stone, with her

children at her sides. "I keep this piece in the bedroom, and it greets me every day with love for the old days," she writes, "when the future was wide open and I thought the kids and me would be together forever."

As a grad student, Adlerstein painted each day after class. Suddenly far from home, she used art to connect to her Latin American roots. Though there is an undeniable sense of joy in the colorful, vibrant pieces—fiercely alive with primary colors—there is also palpable longing.

Other groupings in the exhibit include a gorgeously evocative series inspired by Lascaux's prehistoric cave paintings, which she displays together in her living room for an immersive experience. Another collection, created after Adlerstein and her husband moved to a small, forest-adjacent village in Germany where she struggled with loneliness and isolation, includes two of my favorite pieces—"Herbst Bald," an arresting explosion of fall color, and "Solea," a self-portrait/landscape hybrid. A sampling of more recent pieces collects work developed since the artist and her husband moved to Michigan in 2001.

In this last assemblage, different parts of Adlerstein's lived experience come together. Her research on the effects of dams on Michigan rivers results in the elemental richness of "Riverflows"; an old, outgrown pair of her husband's jeans is transformed into "My Favorite Second Skins"; and news of an intense Chilean earthquake spawns the blood-colored, sedimentary-like layers of "Mother Power."

The personal and the natural are one in Adlerstein's work, and getting a sustained glimpse into her process, history, and evolution feels like a powerful discovery in its own right.

"Not for Sale: My Private Collection" runs from August 18 to September 28 on wsg-art.com.

—Jenn McKee

ed by a club member. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., for online meeting URL email Contact@mactechnics.org. Free. MacTechnics.org

★**Robin Spielberg: The Ark Family Room Series.** This New Age pianist, an MSU graduate, is also a celebrity spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association. She became interested in the relationship between music and healing while spending 4 months with her premature baby in a neonatal intensive care unit. Spielberg has a new album, *Love Story*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

16 SUNDAY

★**"Swim to the Moon": Epic Races.** 10k, 5k, 1.2-mile, and half-mile open water races. Also,

a virtual race option that allows swimmers to participate from any location. Awards, medals for finishers, T-shirts, & more. Proceeds benefit North Star Reach, a camp for kids with life-threatening illnesses. 6:40 a.m., Halfmoon Lake Beach, 8725 Hankerd Rd., Dexter Twp. \$35-\$119 in advance only at EpicRaces.com. Info@EpicRaces.com, 531-8747.

★**Sunday Artisan Market.** Every Sun. Juried market of local handmade arts and crafts. Safety and physical distancing measures enforced. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 913-9622.

★**"Mindful 'Forest Bathing' Among the Oaks": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Doreen Murasky of mindfulness organization *Mindful Dexter* and

naturalist Shawn Severance lead a quiet meditative hike, with pauses for reflection and information about the area's natural history. Bring a water bottle, bug spray, and a mask. 2 p.m., Miller-Smith Preserve, 8560 Dexter-Chelsea Rd., Dexter. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

★**Louis Nagel: Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** Livestream performance by popular local pianist Nagel, a retired U-M music professor. Program includes works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Debussy. 4:15 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free; donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

17 MONDAY

★**Kim Richey: The Ark Family Room Series.** The music of veteran sweet-voiced southwestern Ohio singer-songwriter Richey blends country themes with the irony and attitude of modern rock and the strong melodic hooks of classic pop. This show includes a complete performance of the music of Richey's classic 20-year-old album *Glimmer*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

19 WEDNESDAY

★**"Virtual Steep: An Exploration of Tea": Zingerman's Delicatessen.** Zingerman's staff discuss 1 (or 2) tea samples, including its history, production style, terroir, harvest, and other things that make it special. Tickets include 1 tasting portion of tea & cake, available for pickup the day of the event or delivery for an additional \$5.99. 5:30-6:30 p.m., for online meeting URL, preregister at ZingermansDeli.com/Event. \$20; extra tasting portions, \$10 each. 663-3400.

★**Al Bettis: The Ark Family Room Series.** Detroit-born acoustic soul performer who took up songwriting at age 30 and has opened for Valerie June and for Michael McDonald at Motor City Soundboard. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

20 THURSDAY

★**"The Kosmic Kitchen": Nicola's Books.** Livestream how-to session on a cooking-related topic TBA. Led by members of the Kosmic Kitchen, an educational online platform for plant-based wellness that draws from western herbalism and Ayurvedic practices. 7 p.m. Price TBA, for livestream, preregistration required at Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. NicolasBooks.com

21 FRIDAY

★**"Meet the Maker: Natalie La Bruzzy": Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery.** Livestream discussion with jewelry maker La Bruzzy, an Abracadabra apprentice jeweler. 4

p.m., online at Instagram.com/AbraJewelry. Free. 994-4848.

★**"Euchre Change a Life!"** Five-game online euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. 6:30-9 p.m., for meeting URL preregister by Aug. 19 at Facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife. \$10 donation. EuchreChangeALife@gmail.com

★**"Virtual Peace Generator": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a silent meditation on world peace, forgiveness, cooperation, and joy. 7-9 p.m., see InterfaithSpirit.org for meeting URL. Free, but donations appreciated. 327-0270.

★**Gina Chavez: The Ark Family Room Series.** Bilingual, San Antonio-bred Latin folk singer-songwriter, a 12-time Austin Music Award winner whose songs draw on a diverse array of musical idioms from cumbia and bossa nova to swing and alternative rock. She has a new album, *La Que Manda*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

22 SATURDAY

Burnout Society Film Club. Double feature TBA with trivia (and prizes) for ages 21 & up. Note: Face masks required. 9:30 p.m., 8 Ball Saloon outdoor patio, 208 S. First St. \$3. For updates see Facebook.com/8ballMovieNight.

23 SUNDAY

★**"Tri Goddess Tri": Epic Races.** All women invited to compete in chip-timed triathlons and duathlons of various lengths. Also, a relay race. Awards, medals for finishers, T-shirts, and more. 7:30 a.m., Portage Lake Beach, 11500 Seymour Rd., Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. \$45-\$156 in advance only at EpicRaces.com. \$11 annual park pass required for entry. Info@EpicRaces.com, 585-7101.

★**LezRead Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss a book TBA. 4-6 p.m., online or in-person location TBA at a2LezRead.tumblr.com. Free.

★**Alvin Waddles: Kerrytown Concert House Live @ the 415 Series.** Livestream jazz, cabaret tunes, and blues by this celebrated Detroit stride pianist. 4:15 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Live-At-The-415. Free; donations accepted. KerrytownConcertHouse.com

25 TUESDAY

★**Virtual Play Reading Club: The Brass Tacks Ensemble.** All invited to join members of this local ensemble to read a part in a play TBA (one-act or under 2 hours). Followed by a discussion on the Brass Tackian principles of clarity, universality, entertainment, and the essential elements of theater. Listeners welcome. 6:30 p.m., for meeting URL email

TheBrassTacksEnsemble@gmail.com by 5 p.m. the day of the event. Free. Facebook.com/TheBrassTacksEnsemble

★**"Hungry for Harbor Country with Third Coast Kitchen": Nicola's Books.** Livestream discussion with Lindsay Navama, Chicago-based food blogger and author of the gluten-free cookbook *Hungry for Harbor Country*. 7 p.m. Price TBA, for livestream, preregistration required at Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. NicolasBooks.com

★**Miss Tess: The Ark Family Room Series.** This Nashville-based vintage blues, country, and jazz singer-guitarist "will never fit easily into just one box," says the *Boston Globe*. She is accompanied by, and trades leads with, guitarist Thomas Bryan Eaton. Miss Tess has a new album, *The Moon Is an Ashtray*. 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

26 WEDNESDAY

★**Brian Dunne: The Ark Family Room Series.** Brooklyn-based songwriter who came on the scene in 2015 with the album *Songs from the Hive*, an homage to The Band and Bob Dylan. He was silent as a songwriter for several years after the 2016 elections but returns with *Selling Things*, an album "that balances the personal and political as it contemplates an impending apocalypse that feels more literal and less metaphorical with each passing day." 8 p.m., for livestream URL see TheArk.org/Shows-Events. Free. 761-1451.

27 THURSDAY

★**"The Everyday Ayurveda Guide to Self-Care": Nicola's Books.** An Ayurvedic expert TBA leads an informational session about Ayurvedic wellness practices, which include meditation exercises, breathing practices, and eating with intention. Based on Katie O'Donnell's new book *The Everyday Ayurveda Guide to Self-Care*. 7 p.m. Price TBA, for livestream preregistration required at Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. NicolasBooks.com

29 SATURDAY

★**"Sounds of Summer": Theatre Nova.** Aug. 29 & 30. Physically-distanced open-air concert fundraiser with local bands & singers TBA. Bring a lawn chair, blankets, and a face mask. All proceeds benefit Theatre Nova. 7 p.m. (Sat.) and 4 p.m. (Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 410 W. Huron. Tickets \$20 per person (family of 4, \$50) per day, in advance only at TheatreNova.org. a2theatreNova@gmail.com

kids calendar (age 12 & under)

Every weekday, except Aug. 31 (10 a.m.): **"Virtual Storytime": AADL.** A different local storyteller reads a story TBA to kids ages 2-5. Online at AADL.tv. Free. 327-4200.

Every Sun. (2 p.m.): **"Virtual Kerry Tales with Mother Goose."** 5-10 minute program of rhymes, riddles, & stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. Archived performances available at bit.ly/kerrytales. For livestream URL, see Facebook.com/Kerrytown. Free.

Every Monday (11-11:30 a.m.): **"Virtual Baby Time": AADL.** All age 2 & under (with caregivers) invited to this virtual, interactive program of songs, rhymes, baby bounces, and more. Online at AADL.tv. Free. 327-4200.

Every Wednesday (11 a.m.): **"Storytime": Nicola's Books.** Livestream picture book readings by Nicola's booksellers and guests TBA. For livestream URL see Facebook.com/NicolasBooksA2. Free. NicolasBooks.com

Every Fri. (noon-1 p.m.): **Virtual Educational Programs: Leslie Science and Nature**

Center/Ann Arbor Hands on Museum. LSNC & AAHOM staffers discuss various science-themed topics. Aug. 7: **"Wonderful Water."** Aug. 14: **"Michiganology."** Aug. 21: **"Kitchen Science."** Aug. 28: **"Tremendous Trees."** Online at LeslieSNC.org. Free. 997-1553.

Aug. 12 & 13 (10 a.m.): **"Nature Explorers: Dragonflies": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Naturalist Elle Bogle teaches kids ages 5-7 about the life-cycle of dragonflies and leads a hike to look for adult dragonflies. Bring a mask. West Lake Preserve, 14980 Waterloo Rd., Chelsea. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

Aug. 13 & 14 (10 a.m.): **"Preschool Hike: All the Wild Wonders": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike for kids ages 2-5, accompanied by a caregiver. Bring a water bottle, bug spray, and a mask. County Farm Park Perennial Garden. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

Aug. 21 (6 p.m.): **"Fairy Homes": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All families invited to learn how to use materials from nature to build a door for a fairy house. Supplies provided; each family is assigned a section of woods to build and place their fairy door. Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, Dexter. \$10 per family, up to 5 people per family. Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

Aug. 22 (10:30 a.m.): **"Kids Virtual Open Mic": Oz's Music Environment.** All kids invited to join a Zoom gathering to sing songs, make music, tell jokes, and more. For Zoom meeting information see bit.ly/ozkidsopenmic (meeting ID, 933 1925 5392; password, 362147). Free. 662-8283.

Aug. 26 & 29 (10:30 a.m.): **"Junior Naturalist: Tree Stories": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Naturalist Elle Bogle teaches kids ages 7-12 about tree identification. Bring a mask. County Farm Park. Free, preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org.

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Classifieds

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Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 10.

ISPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 51? If you can, you could win a \$25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103 or email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST

Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, August 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

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Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 10.

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The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 10.

Lurie Terrace. High-value, affordable senior apts. Smoke-free. Located near West Park and YMCA. Couples invited for deluxe 1BR and 2BR apts. Phone (734) 665-0695 for details.

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Outdoors

The **Classifieds deadline** for the September issue is August 10.

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Light gardening, misc. chores, weeding. Call Mark (734) 355-1274.

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Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

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Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher



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Real Estate

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3595 DALEVIEW, ANN ARBOR—This home has undergone an amazing transformation and the results are stunning! Every part of the home has been remodeled with the utmost attention to detail, with quality finishes throughout including Swedish white oak floors, lovely tile in powder and mud rooms. You will love the new open concept of this mid century modern home now featuring tons of light and space. The white kitchen features Caesarstone waterfall countertops, AGA induction range, stainless appliances & wine refrigerator. The master bath has Carrara marble tiles, free standing tub, towel warmer and waterfall shower. The exterior has been freshly painted, and a new Trex deck added off the family room along with a brand new AC unit. This house is nestled in a beautiful forest setting above the Huron River with 80 feet of frontage to hop in your kayak or canoe. It's just minutes from Downtown Ann Arbor and easy access the highways, yet in a peaceful very special part of Ann Arbor. Home has soaring ceilings and great windows and door walls throughout to showcase its natural setting. You will love this home! MLS# 3274265. \$975,000.



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SALINE ESTATES - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath all-brick and stone home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with panoramic views of common area and pond. This home was constructed to the highest standards seen in our area. Highlights include one of the nicest residential pools you will find, custom kitchen with granite and Viking/SubZero appliances, open concept family room, Solarium, luxury master suite with brand new bath, and finished walkout basement with 2nd kitchen, large rec room, and additional flex-use rooms. \$1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR HILLS - This classic 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial rests on a gorgeous hilltop lot in a prime section of Ann Arbor Hills. You will love this setting with mature trees, large backyard, and patio. The interior is gorgeous! Highlights include all-hardwood floors, original trim, updated kitchen with painted maple cabinets and granite counters, living room with fireplace, sunroom, den, master suite with remodeled master bath, 2nd bedroom suite, and finished basement. Angell Elementary. \$1,150,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - ELMWOOD - Incredible 4-bedroom, 3-bath architect designed contemporary just minutes from UM campus and all hospitals. This home rests on a peaceful 2.3-acre lot with mature trees and lots of privacy. The home is incredible. Highlights include imported finished materials throughout, great room and dining room with vaulted ceilings and tons of glass, Italian kitchen cabinets with designer cabinets, luxury master suite, and many quality features. \$1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS - Spectacular, custom-built 6-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath two-story on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has it all. Gorgeous 1.2-acre lot with extensive landscaping, large patio, and pond. The interior is stunning including custom kitchen with granite and professional grade appliances, family room with fireplace, screen porch, sunroom, luxury master suite with sitting room, and finished basement. \$899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - SALINE - Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath all brick home on a peaceful acre lot in one of Saline's best neighborhoods. This home is incredible. The exterior features extensive landscaping, cover patio, deck, and huge backyard. The interior loaded. Highlights include great room with fireplace, maple kitchen with granite, paneled den, luxury first floor master suite with newer spa-like bath, bonus room, and incredible finished basement. \$849,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - GLENNBOROUGH - This custom-built 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath stately colonial by Harris rests on one of the most premium lots in Glennborough. The setting is incredible with panoramic views of mature trees, pond, and a landscaped deck, patio, and great yard. The interior features cherry kitchen with granite, open concept family room with vaulted ceiling, great formal living and dining rooms, first floor den, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CENTENNIAL PARK - This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two 1/2-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. \$759,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - CENTENNIAL PARK - Gorgeous 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home with pond frontage walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. The lot is fantastic with extensive landscaping, Trex deck, large screened porch, and panoramic pond views. The interior is wonderful and features great room with two-story ceiling, open concept kitchen with maple Kitchen and granite, den, luxury master suite, and one of the nicest finished basements you see with rec space, home theater, and bar. \$724,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



STONEBRIDGE - Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. \$629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - TRAVIS POINTE - Stunning, completely remodeled 2-bedroom, 2-bath ranch condo overlooking the #8 green at Travis Pointe Country Club. Incredible setting with views of mature trees, pond, and a panoramic golf course setting. The interior is just perfect. Highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling and wide plank hardwood floor, custom kitchen with painted maple cabinets, quartz counters, and stainless-steel appliances, and luxury master suite with spa-like bath. \$569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ARBORETUM - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. \$510,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - HERITAGE FALLS CONDO - Stunning 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath ranch condo in one of the most convenient locations you'll see. You will love living walking distance to restaurants and shopping and just minutes to I-94 and UM campus. The interior is loaded with quality finishes. Features include great room with fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliance, sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, 2nd bedroom suite, and 3rd bedroom that makes a perfect den. \$499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - NORTHVILLE - Very nice 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in Lakes of Northville. The location of this home is fantastic just minutes to schools, shopping, and downtown Northville. Great setting with circle drive, Trex deck, large backyard, and patio. The interior is sharp and features a large living room with fireplace, cherry kitchen with quartz counter, nice master suite with walk-in closet, and finished walkout basement. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



DEXTER - This 3-bedroom, 2-bath cape rests on an extremely private 1.8-acre lot just minutes from downtown Dexter. You will love this setting with mature trees, extensive landscaping, huge backyard, deck, and patio. The interior of this home is in move-in condition. Features include great room with vaulted ceiling and full height stone fireplace, open kitchen with stainless steel appliances, first floor master suite, 2nd level with loft, 2 bedrooms, a bath, and a finished walkout basement. \$399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



SALINE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath condo in Burwyck Park just minutes to downtown Saline. This unit has been completely updated, you will love it. Features include all-hardwood floor on the main level, kitchen with painted white maple cabinets, quartz counter tops, and stainless steel appliances, great room with fireplace, luxury master suite, 2 additional great sized bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room and full bath. \$304,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING - SALINE - Sharp 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch walking distance to downtown Saline shopping and restaurants. This home rests on peaceful city lot with mature trees and patio. The interior includes hardwood flooring in most rooms, updated kitchen, nice living room, three spacious main level bedrooms, and finished basement with family room, 4th bedroom, and 2nd full bath. \$229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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LUXURY HOMES

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1961 Boulder Dr, Huron Chase Condo

Highly sought-after ranch condo. Gorgeous view from the walls of windows overlooking deck and wooded area. 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1st floor master. Finished basement, fantastic location! \$625,000. Brandee Wiseman 734-604-0411. #3273558



1720 Glenwood Rd., Ann Arbor Hills

Desirable brick ranch with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths on a double lot! Wonderfully landscaped, 4-season sunporch, fireplace, walkout lower level with rec room, composite deck, 2.5-car garage. \$675,000. Lisa Ridha 734-395-2586. #3272161



1826 Brookview Dr, Brookview Highlands

Stunning 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath on beautiful 1 acre. Nearly 3,900 livable sq. ft. including finished lower level with wet bar, rec area and 5th bedroom. Expansive deck, in-ground salt water pool. \$749,900. Elke VanDyke 734-635-3150. #3272478



414 N Main St. #14, Main Condos

Sophisticated downtown townhouse with exceptional finishes is located in the heart of Kerrytown! 2 bedrooms plus study, 2.5 baths. Chic kitchen with quartz countertops. 2-car tandem garage. \$945,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3274262



1912 Austin Ave, Ives Woods

Elegant, light-filled, prairie style brick home built in 1931, with original details. Lovingly maintained, 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths. Located on beautiful corner lot in desirable Ives Woods. \$1,450,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3271237



4261 Loon Ln, West Ann Arbor

To be built! Craftsman design ranch style home with emphasis on high-end and amenity-focused. Homes will be approximately 2,100 sq. ft., gourmet kitchens, covered front porch. \$650,000. Brynn Stelter 734-277-2531. #3270157



4540 Old Oak Ct, Superior Township

Exquisite former builder's home, rich with quality details throughout. 4 bedrooms, 6 baths, fresh paint throughout, chef's kitchen with 8 ft. island, second laundry, 3-car garage. Located on 2 acres. \$736,000. Dana Vespri 734-904-3868. #3270728



3074 Heather Rd, Saline

Travis Pointe ranch nestled into private, wooded lot with tranquil water views and glimpses of the 5th green. 4 bedrooms, 3 full, 1 half bath. Major renovations in 2008 make this home exquisite! \$759,999. Pia Crum 734-680-6235. #3274444



3212 W Dobson Pl, Northeast Ann Arbor

This stunning home in The Woodlands on a spectacular wooded lot bordering 20 acre university greenbelt. 4,200 sq. ft. plus a finished lower level. Magnificent views will take your breath away! \$1,150,000. Matt Miller 734-476-4869. #3265530



8786 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor

30 Acre country estate in Ann Arbor, minutes to town, offering privacy and serenity. Stunning 5,500 sq. ft. home. Plenty of room for animals. Professionally landscaped. Dexter schools. \$1,499,000. Jeff Klink 734-260-7483. #3266930



1012 Bath St, West Park Area

Town living at its best! Remodeled 2-story with old world charm and modern amenities. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, study, garage with home office, remodeled kitchen, finished lower level, screened porch. \$650,000. Ed Ridha 734-645-3110. #3272752



4374 Lake Vista Dr, The Preserve of Dexter

Craftsman style home on beautiful 1 acre hilltop site with views of Glacier Lake! Features an open plan, 1st floor master and 3 additional bedrooms, 3.5 baths, stunning kitchen and walkout lower level. \$739,900. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3273405



8133 Trail Ridge, Dexter

Custom home on private wooded site, protected by wetlands. Amazing details, 1st floor master, finished walkout lower level includes: kitchen, bedroom, bath and laundry. \$789,900. Janet McAllister 734-231-3508. #3271399



2671 Bedford Rd, Ann Arbor Hills

Completely renovated Mid-Century Modern. Extremely private 0.54 acre lot with mature trees. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, chef's dream kitchen, large windows, greenhouse, wine cellar and more! \$1,295,000. Megan Mazurek 734-645-4296. #3274247



2342 Highland Dr, Woodlands of Geddes Glen

Stunning 5,516 sq. ft. custom colonial backing to UM's Radrick Farms Golf Course. 4 bedrooms, 4 full, 2 half baths, gourmet kitchen, dramatic 2-story foyer, stone fireplace, 4-car garage. \$1,499,999. Cristie Wilson 734-669-6818. #3271817



786 Real Quiet Ct, Saline

Notable 2-story is dressed to impress and ready to go! Situated on beautifully landscaped .97 acre lot in desired community of Saline Estates. Upgrades galore. \$650,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3273325



602 E Ann St, Downtown AA Historic

1886 Queen Anne home on tree-lined street in Old Fourth Ward District. Preserved period details mixed w/modern amenities. Lovely backyard. Walk to downtown, campus, hospital. \$745,000. Anne Sloan 734-476-3444. #3272834



2045 Rouse Creek Ct, Lake Forest

Absolutely gorgeous 6 bedroom, 4.5 bath on quiet cul-de-sac with majestic pines and beautiful landscaping. Over 5,500 sq. ft. of finished living space includes walkout. Stunning custom features! \$795,000. Laurie Buys 734-658-7158. #3271897



218 W Kingsley #401, Kingsley Condos

Stunning, brand new 4th floor end unit in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor! Patio with southern exposure, city views. 2,638 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Master suite with luxury bath. \$1,399,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3269371



1825 Geddes Ave, The Arb

Amazing cotswold style home is one of only 21 homes directly adjacent to Nichols Arboretum. Substantial renovations have just been completed! Walk to downtown, campus and hospitals. \$1,784,000. Nate Foerg 734-834-1981. #3271282



10444 Stoney Point Dr, Hidden Lake

Stunning 3,392 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 1st floor master. Elegant main level, 2-story great room. Unfinished lower level, 3-car garage, patio. Great location, easy access to freeways. Brighton Schools. \$665,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3274101



997 Gallery Ln, Gallery at the Polo Fields

Beautiful stone and brick home. Well maintained, 6 bedrooms, 3 full, 2 half baths, finished lower level. Panoramic views from great room, covered patio, 29 x 10 sunroom, 3-car garage. \$749,900. Lisa Stelter 734-645-7909. #3272725



208 South St, Downtown Chelsea

Beautifully, pristinely restored 137-year-old Queen Anne Victorian, no detail missed! 4,919 sq. ft., parquet floors, restored moldings, doors and balustrades, gorgeous wrap-around porch. \$875,000. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3274163



3090 Geddes Ave, Geddes Arboretum Area

Unique, completely renovated, Mid-Century Modern home on 1.5 acres of natural beauty. Near Central Campus, easy drive to UM Med Center and North Campus Research Center. \$1,449,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3273783



4140 Miller Rd, Ann Arbor

Stately estate on 33.91 lush wooded acres surrounded by plants, wildlife, pond, horse barn with 6 stables and corral. 5,915 livable sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 3 full, 2 half baths, chef's kitchen and more! \$2,600,000. Cynthia Cicala-Smigielski 734-395-9679. #3252385

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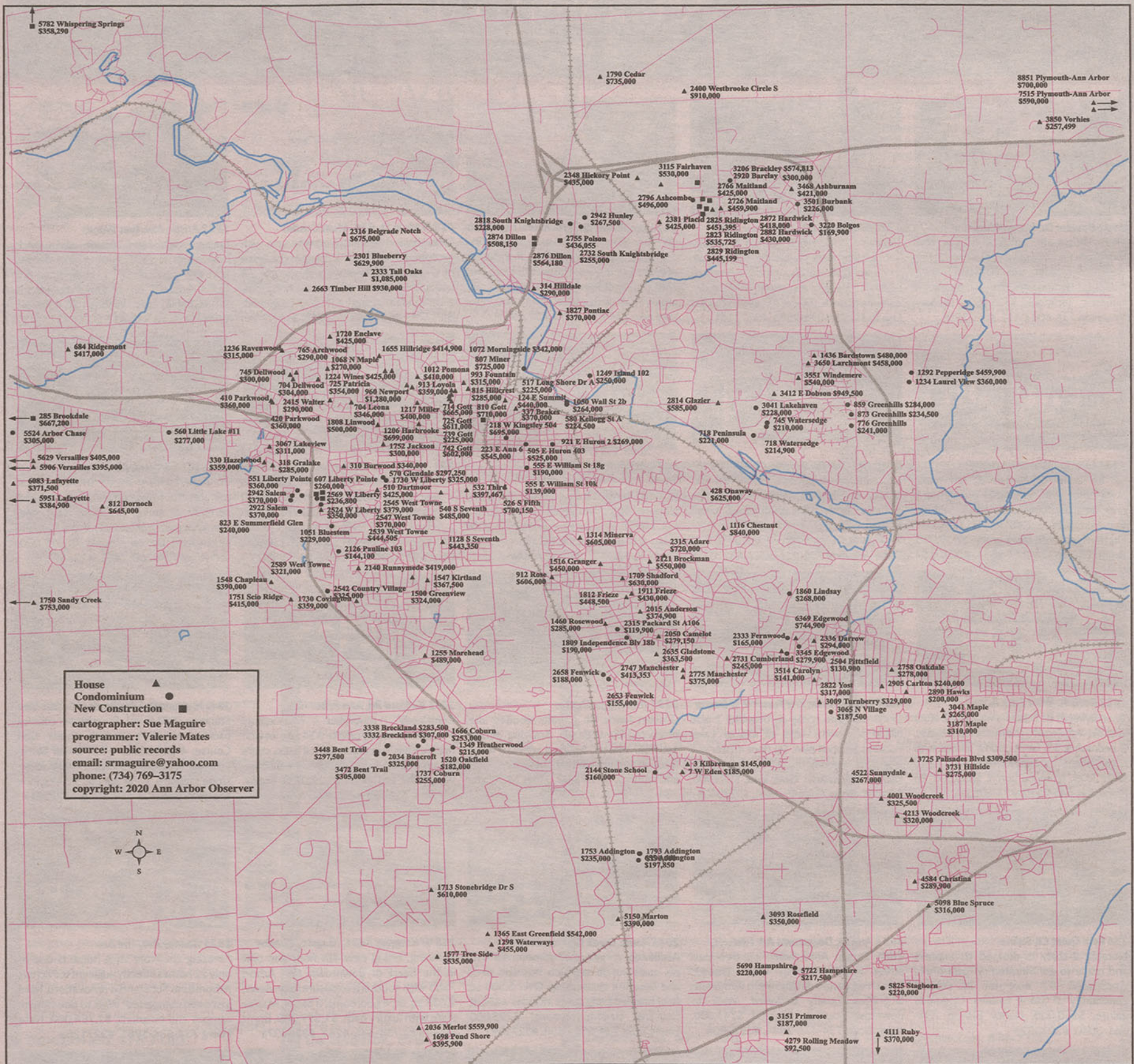
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JUNE 2020

HOME SALES



This month's map shows 204 home transfers recorded in the Ann Arbor School District in June—the highest total in 2020, and down only slightly from 211 in June 2019. The Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors' Multiple Listing Service, which counts sales earlier in the process, shows 224 transactions, also a year-to-date record and just under last June's 233.

Listings continued to recover from their lockdown low of 129 in April. After setting a year-to-date high of 347 in May, they eased back down slightly to 304 in June, but were still ahead of June 2019's 271 as sellers made up for lost time.

The average selling price (both single-family homes and condos) has been bouncing around a bit, from \$363,000 in April to \$421,000 in May and \$378,000 in June (in round numbers). Adjust for the size of the homes sold, though, and the picture stabilizes.

In the depths of the stay-at-home order, the average square footage price dipped to \$217 in March and \$219 in April—almost exactly where it stood at the start of 2019. June's average was \$225, down about 3.5 percent from the year-to-date high of \$233 in January.

Gott St. in the Water Hill neighborhood underwent a substantial overhaul,

with four sales within a block on this month's map: 714, 725, and 742 between Summit and Hiscock, and 810 half a block north across Summit. All are large homes that have undergone substantial renovation, and all sold within days of one another.

Buyers paid a premium to move right in and enjoy the recent upgrades: the four homes sold for \$602,000 to \$710,000. Ranging in size from 1,557 to 2,024 square feet, that worked out to an average of \$357 a square foot—43 percent above June's single-family-home average of \$249 (the MLS figure on the chart includes condos).

By comparison, 739 Gott sold for just \$225,000. But it was much smaller—917

square feet—and it needed work: the marketing advised prospective buyers to "prepare to roll up [their] sleeves." They paid \$245 per square foot for that opportunity.

In mid-July, two more homes were listed nearby. On the northwest corner of Summit, 803 Gott is another large (1,792 square feet), recently remodeled, two-bedroom, two-bath home. At an asking price of \$529,000, that works out to \$295 a square foot. At the southeast corner of Gott and Hiscock, 715 Hiscock is a more modest, but more recently built, 1,416-square-foot, three-bedroom, two-bath, brick ranch. The sellers are asking \$559,800—or \$395 a square foot.

—Sue Maguire

DYNAMIC DUO

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-Ann Arbor Buyer



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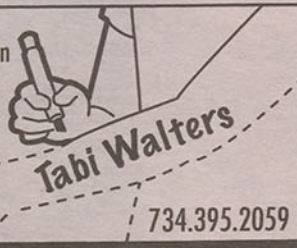
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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

"This was tricky," says Bob Maddox, "trying to decide which spicy pit" July's clue referred to. He bicycled past Mongolian Grill, Tomukun, and Buffalo Wild Wings before finding the right one. "I am almost sure that 'spicy pit' refers to ... Jamaican Jerk Pit," writes Louisa Griffes, though she couldn't find the depicted detail nearby. "I will be looking forward to the answer!"

"There are so many rich, beautiful buildings in that area," writes Debbie Onderdonk, who, like Louisa, searched many places on campus. Then, when they were about to about give up, "my daughter yelled 'there it is!' We were so excited."

"I Spy 312 South State Street," writes David Frye, "which I will point out is only one in approximately one million buildings within a block or so of" the Jamaican Jerk Pit. "You made me search!" The building "now is home to Poke Poke, just north of Amer's," says Joe Cialdella.

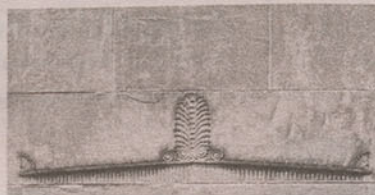
"I NEVER would have found this without a good clue and a little legwork!" writes Mike McGraw. "My hus-



Recently revealed

band searched at least six times," says Mary Adams. "Thank you for providing entertainment options during COVID!"

We received sixteen entries in July. Bob Maddox won our random drawing winner and will enjoy his \$25 gift certificate at Zingerman's.



To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

While wrapping up *The Fake Ad Book* (shameless plug: it is available to order on page 52), we've been marveling at the fun, thoughtful, creative messages we receive from Fake Adders every month.

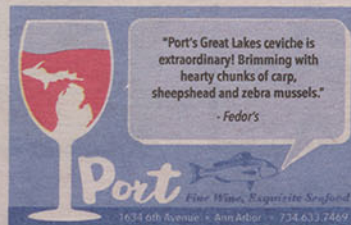
Add this one from Ginny Weingate to the list. "Looking through the ads this month I saw with excitement the words Great Lakes ceviche," Weingate wrote. "I love ceviche but then I didn't recognize the restaurant.

Seeing the ingredients of carp, sheephead, and zebra mussels I realized that I didn't want to try this at all. The fake ad is on page 35. Heise is hidden in 'ceviche is extraordinary.' I also don't think 6th Ave. exists.

"We have many great fish from the big lakes, inland lakes, and streams surely some of those would make a good Great Lakes ceviche," Weingate continued. "Now I'll ask my husband to make something like that. This could be a tasty adventure. Thanks again for the fun. It is a delight to discover the Fake Ad—like buried treasure."

See that? Not only did Weingate entertain, she did our work for us, identifying the ad by page number and explaining how the previous month's winner's name was hidden. All

that's left for us to do is to mention that the Fake Ad was for a wine and seafood restaurant with the doubly appropriate name of Port, and to point out that Molly Kuo was chosen as our winner from a pool of 207 correct entries. She's taking her \$25 gift card to Zingerman's.



To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on August 10th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.



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THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our July drawing!

The following readers won a **\$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

July winners:
Marlene S. and Dave V.

If you would like to be entered in the August drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 44, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by August 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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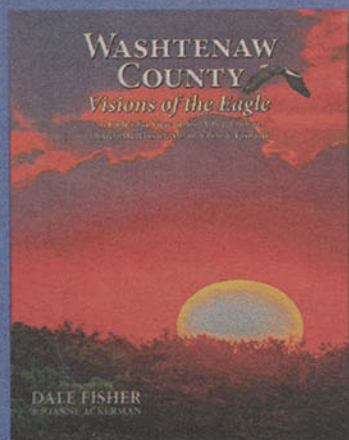
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Events at a Glance

Daily Events listings begin on p. 40. Galleries: p. 42. Kids: p. 43.

►Reviewed in this issue. See p. 40.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Carillon concerts (U-M STMD), Aug. 3 & 10
- New Age pianist Robin Spielberg livestream (The Ark), Aug. 15

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Singer-guitarist duo Matt Watroba & Robert Jones livestream (acoustic), Aug. 1
- Big band Accidentally Hip livestream (swing), Aug. 2
- Bassist Jacob Warren livestream (eclectic multi-genre), Aug. 3
- Singer-songwriter Brooke Annibale livestream (folk), Aug. 5
- Guitarist-vocalist-songwriter Corey Harris livestream (blues & reggae), Aug. 7
- Singer Al Bettis livestream (soul), Aug. 19
- Singer-songwriter Gina Chavez livestream (Latin folk), Aug. 21
- Singer-guitarist Miss Tess livestream (blues-country-jazz), Aug. 25

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Storyteller Lyn Ford livestream, Aug. 8

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Virtual Jewish Film Festival, Aug. 11-31

- Ann Arbor Virtual Pride, Aug. 1
- WSG online gallery, Aug. 18-Sep. 28
- Outdoor summer concert fundraiser (Theatre Nova), Aug. 27, 29 & 30

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Suspense writer Karen Dionne livestream, Aug. 6
- Jeweler Brittany Cheyanne Turner livestream, Aug. 7
- Romance novelists Meg Cabot and Jasmine Guillory livestream, Aug. 13
- Food writer Lindsay Navama livestream, Aug. 25

Family & Kids' Stuff

See our Kids Calendar, p. 43 for most kids events.

- Live creature encounters, Aug. 1
- Bassist Keith Grimwood & guitarist Ezra Idlet, Aug. 11
- Fairy homes online demo, Aug. 21

Miscellaneous

- Brass Tacks virtual playwriting club, Aug. 11
- Chimney swift count, Aug. 14-16
- Livestream "Kosmic" cooking demos, Aug. 20

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Mindful "forest bathing," Aug. 16

I Spy... Something New

The Fake Ad and I Spy contests are a beloved tradition in the monthly Ann Arbor Observer. Jay Forstner and Sally Bjork are collecting some of their favorites in two new books.



- *I Spy...Architecture*
- *The Fake Ad Book / 47 of the Best Fake Ads of All Time*

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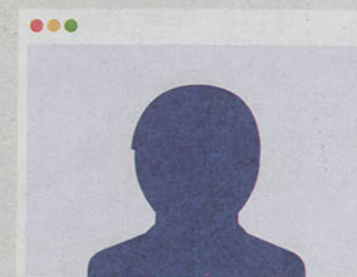
\$19.95 each, or both for \$29.95.

TheRide is introducing a temporary service plan beginning August 30.

Find out the details of the plan and learn how to join us at an upcoming town hall meeting* at TheRide.org.



DAY	TIME
August 4	12 PM
August 6	6 PM
August 11	12 PM
August 13	6 PM
August 18	12 PM
August 19	6 PM
August 20	12 PM



*Dates/Times subject to change

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